PACQUIAO VS ALGIERI PREVIEW

P.54

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ALIEN AMONG US

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DECEMBER 2014

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The RING
DECEMBER 2014

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Kell Brook had a three-week period in August and September he'll never forget, winning his first major title and then getting stabbed.

COVER PHOTO BY ED MULHOLLAND

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Heavyweight king Wladimir Klitschko reveals his toughest opponents in "Best I've Faced."

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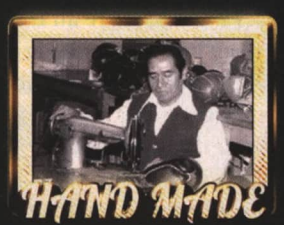

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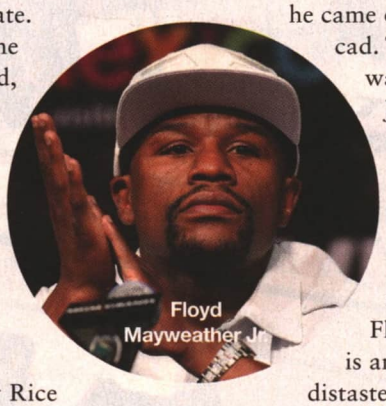
ENOUGH ALREADY

Floyd Mayweather Jr. gave us a lot to write about the past month, most of it disgusting.

No one was surprised that he beat Marcos Maidana in their rematch on Sept. 13, a result that was more one-sided than the official scorecards might indicate. Mayweather remains the best fighter in the world, which isn't big news.


Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Mayweather provided fodder for columns like this one with his mouth, not his fists. His comments are well documented. He downplayed the punch with which Ray Rice knocked out his fiancee, saying "things happen." Then, in a damning interview on CNN, he took no responsibility for his own convictions for violence against women.

"Hearsay," he said.

Mayweather should feel very fortunate that he is a boxer, not a football, baseball or basketball player. Indeed, if he made his living with a ball, his life would be different.

Rice is cut from his team and suspended indefinitely for his violent act, left to wonder whether he'll ever play again in the NFL. Mayweather does the same and, after spending two months in jail, continues to fight regularly and build his fortune.

The difference? Rice was in essence an employee whose team and league have the power to administer punishment to protect the brand. Mayweather fights for no one other than himself when it comes down to it.

A national boxing commission, one similar to professional sports leagues, could take action in the best interest of the sport but such a commission remains a fantasy. Without one, the powers that be – state commissions and sanctioning bodies – are left to govern the sport. And, with few exceptions, they take punitive action only when infractions take place within the sport.

Thus, the only price Mayweather paid beyond jail time was in the court of public opinion, in which he came off looking like a cad. The strongest voice was that of HBO's Jim Lampley, who said on his talk show: "The fact is, unbeaten record or not, consummate skill notwithstanding, Floyd Mayweather is an often aggressively distasteful human being whose behaviors are a blight on the boxing landscape."

And: "Fact is, for the betterment of boxing's image, Floyd Mayweather's retirement cannot come a moment too soon."

Lampley has faced his own accusations of violence against women. And, yes, it's reasonable to wonder whether he would've made the same comments if Mayweather were fighting for HBO instead of Showtime.

Still, Lampley said what a lot of us have been thinking for a long time. Kudos to him.

I hesitate to judge people in most cases because we're all far from perfect. But we're talking here about harming women and then trivializing it. It's hard to give Mayweather the benefit of any doubt that might exist.

I have to agree with Lampley. I'll miss Mayweather's sublime skills when he walks away but I won't miss him.

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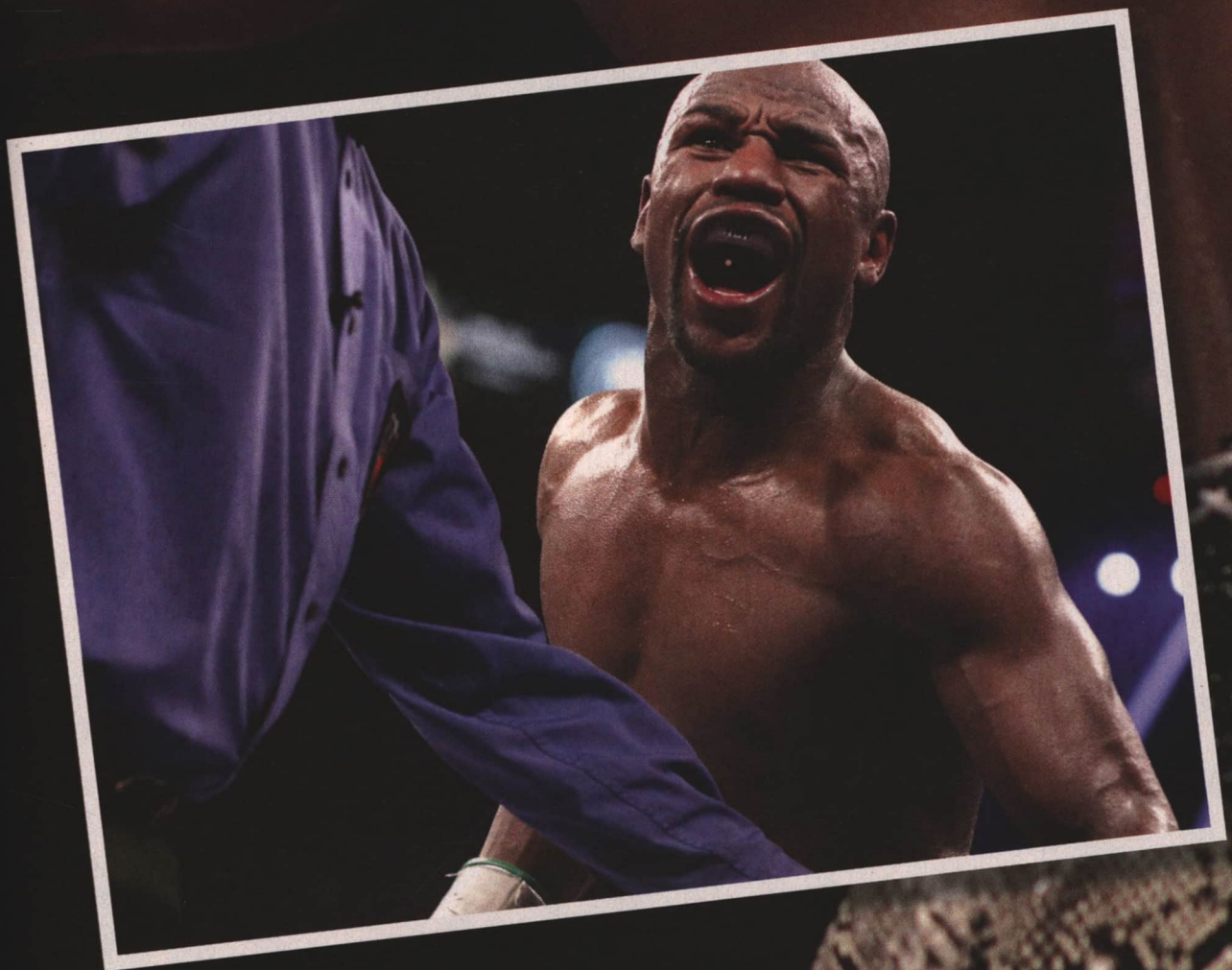
James De La Rosa flipped out after his breakthrough victory over Alfredo Angulo on the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Marcos Maidana card on Sept. 13.

Nuevo

Floyd Mayweather Jr. (right) had an easier time against Marcos Maidana the second time around if you discount an alleged hand biting, which irked Mayweather (inset).



Kiko Martinez appears to find the round-card girl more interesting than his cornerman's words in his loss to Carl Frampton on Sept. 6.

CYCLONE

COME OUT WRITING

LEWIS SHORTCHANGED

Your October 2014 issue confirmed something I've been saying for years: Lennox Lewis is one of the most underrated fighters in history. It's absurd that Lewis was placed way down at No. 48 on the list, this in spite of the fact he destroyed Mike Tyson when they fought and soundly defeated Evander Holyfield twice (since everyone knows the draw in their first fight was ridiculous). Lewis owns a victory over every fighter he ever fought, unified the belts and retired with them. He and Rocky Marciano are the only modern-era heavyweights to accomplish that. Now everyone's going to say that Tyson and Holyfield were over the hill when Lewis beat them even though in actuality Lewis is a year older than Tyson and Holyfield went on to win a world title by beating John Ruiz in his first fight after officially losing to Lewis. In fact, Holyfield fought for years afterward.

Matt Jacobs
New York, N.Y.

ALL WRONG

That Top 20 list you guys put together was one of the worst lists I've ever seen. Roy Jones Jr. and Bernard Hopkins do not belong in the Top 20. That's ridiculous and unbelievable. Then you put Rocky Marciano at No. 18 below Jones? Guys, that's blasphemy. Also, if Hopkins and Jones are Top 20 material, then where is Joe Calzaghe, who beat them both and has greater accomplishments than both of them?

John Lipari
Brooklyn, N.Y.

OLD-TIMERS BETTER

I must dispute the inclusion of several HBO/Showtime-contract-era fighters in the Top 20. Their promotional contracts and the alphabet title system allow them to avoid fighting top contenders in their divisions. Many greats on this list dominated when there were only eight weight divisions with eight champions. Today there are as many as 85 belts strewn about over 17 weight classes. I would add to the Top 20 Mike Tyson, one of the greatest heavyweights of all time. Forget the ear biting, he ran from no one. I would also add Emile Griffith, who fought everyone in every weight division and always in hostile territory. And I would include Larry Holmes, George Foreman and Evander Holyfield. Much better fighters who fought the best of the best.

Joe Mazur
Plymouth Meeting, Pa.

★

A NEW ERA?

With Canelo Alvarez switching alliances and signing a mega deal with HBO that will see him fight up to three times a year over the next three years for the cable network, Canelo not only looks to start his reign as the top pay-per-view money man, but he will be looking to take back the major PPV dates and Mexican holidays of Cinco de Mayo and Mexican Independence Day from the grip of pound-for-pound kingpin Floyd Mayweather Jr., who could find himself in an unusual position. If Canelo decides to face middleweight champ Miguel Cotto in May and, say, face Gennady Golovkin in September, he will force the hand of Floyd to try to match these fights. And with dwindling PPV numbers and a rash of not-so-entertaining fights the past few years, Floyd will have only one matchup to turn to compete: Manny Pacquiao. That will be the difference in whether Floyd ends his career with a bang or in a fizzle.

Matthew Becher
Kingston, N.Y.

ENOUGH 'MONEY'

How rich does Floyd Mayweather Jr. want to be? Mayweather's desire for money, as opposed to challenging competition, has cheated the paying boxing fan tremendously. I am all for fighters making money so that they may retire comfortably given their taxing profession. But the consumer must also be factored into the equation. A balance is needed where the fighter is compensated fairly and the fan is given the competitive fights they have paid for. In Mayweather's case, instead of looking to take on the best opponents while they were in their primes, he has consistently avoided them or waited until they were beyond their best (i.e. Shane Mosely and Oscar De La Hoya). He failed to make fights with Manny Pacquiao, Antonio Margarito (pre-alleged cheater) and Sergio Martinez. These fighters were the closest thing we had to Roberto Duran, Thomas Hearns and Marvin Hagler. Mayweather could've played the role of Sugar Ray Leonard but didn't. Instead, he chose to fight the likes of Victor Ortiz, Robert Guerrero, and Marcos Maidana. Then, when asked what great fighter of the past he would like to have faced, Mayweather mentioned Duran. I can only wonder what excuse he would have used to not fight Duran.

Jonathan Adame
Los Angeles

CORRECTION

In the October 2014 issue, Mike Tyson appeared out of order in one of the charts (Page 61) that accompanied our poll of experts to determine the Top 20 fighters since World War II. Tyson should've been No. 32 (not No. 22), which lifts those between 23 and 31 up one notch each. The error was corrected in the digital version of the magazine.

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Those who understand the politics of boxing know Daniel Jacobs didn't win a legitimate title when he stopped Jarrod Fletcher on Aug. 9.

JABS & STRAIGHT **WRITES**

BY THOMAS HAUSER

A NIGHT TO FORGET

THE GARCIA-SALKA CARD WAS LACKING ON MORE THAN ONE LEVEL

If one wanted to construct an argument for the abolition of professional boxing, the Aug. 9, 2014 fight card at Barclays Center in Brooklyn would be a good place to start. The undercard featured three first-round knockouts (one at the 28-second mark) and some horrible judging in favor of house fighter Zachary Ochoa. But in some respects, the three featured fights were worse.

Danny Garcia, who might be the best 140-pound fighter in the world, brutally knocked out pathetically overmatched, 50-to-1 underdog Rod Salka in the second round.

Lamont Peterson played it almost as safe by fighting shopworn 35-year-old Edgar Santana, a 33-to-1 underdog. Peterson loaded up and threw punches all night at Santana, who looked as if he was auditioning for the role of a heavy bag. It was an ugly one-sided beating that ended when New York State Athletic Commission medical director Barry Jordan intervened in Round 10, which was five rounds too late. Santana will pay for the punishment he took for the rest of his life.

But as bad as Garcia-Salka and Peterson-Santana were, the fight that did the most to tarnish boxing might have been Daniel Jacobs vs. Jarrod Fletcher.

For more than a century, the term "world champion" had special meaning and was part of a long and glorious tradition.

No more.

The single most damaging development in boxing in recent years has been the proliferation of world "champions." There are now as many as 100 of them at any given time. Fans simply don't know who the champions are.

Jacobs-Fletcher was for a bogus "world championship." Fletcher didn't even perform like a good club fighter. Jacobs, who four years ago was knocked out by the only world-class fighter he ever faced, ended matters in Round 5.

I like Jacobs. He's a nice young man. His comeback from cancer is an inspiring story. I wish him every success. Outside the ring, he carries himself like a champion. Maybe someday he'll be a champion inside the ring, too. But right now, he isn't.

To repeat: Jacobs is an inspirational feel-good story. Calling him a "world champion" ruins it. ★

REASON TO BE PROUD

Boxing puts its best foot forward with good fights inside the ring. But every so often, something outside the ring also gives its partisans reason to be proud.

On Aug. 10, Frank Maloney, who was once among the ranks of England's leading managers and promoters, announced that he had been living as a woman for the past year and was undergoing gender reassignment.

"I was born in the wrong body and I have always known I was a woman," Maloney told The (London) Mirror. "I can't keep living in the shadows. That is why I am doing what I am today. Living with the burden any longer would have killed me. What was wrong at birth is now being medically corrected. I have a female brain. I knew I was different from the minute I could compare myself to other children. I wasn't in the right body."

Maloney's revelation was greeted with demeaning comments in some circles. But overall, the boxing community has responded with tolerance and compassion. Lennox Lewis, who became heavyweight champion of the world under Maloney's guidance, spoke for his brethren when he posted the following statement on his Facebook page:

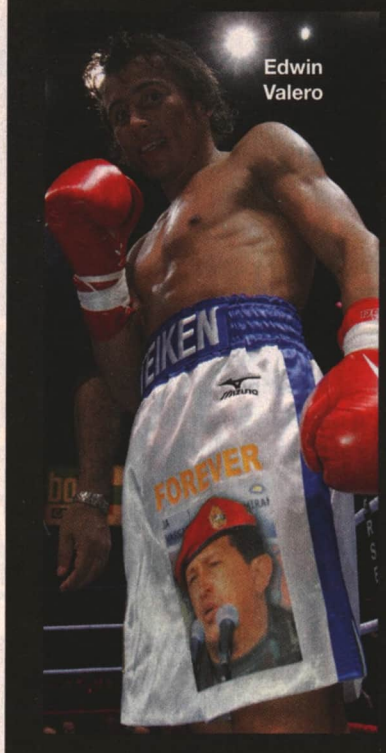
"I was just as shocked as anyone at the news about my former promoter, and my initial thought was that it was a wind up. The great thing about life, and boxing, is that, day to day, you never know what to expect. This world we live in isn't always cut and dried or black and white. And coming from the boxing fraternity, I can only imagine what a difficult decision this must be for Kellie (Maloney's new name). However, having taken some time to read Kellie's statements, I understand better what she and others in similar situations are going through. I think that ALL people should be allowed to live their lives in a way that brings them harmony and inner peace." ★

As the number of boxing websites grows exponentially each year, the number of print magazines devoted to the sweet science grows smaller. For almost a century, THE RING has been the preeminent boxing publication in the United States. In the United Kingdom, it has shared honors for the past quarter century with Boxing Monthly.

Boxing Monthly owed much of its success to its editor, Glyn Leach. Glyn cared deeply about boxing and understood it well. He was also the sort of editor that writers love to work with. Pitch an article idea to him and you got a quick "yes" or "no" in response. He respected his writers' words and involved them in the editing process.

Leach died suddenly on Aug. 17 at age 52. He will be missed by boxing and by everyone who wrote for him. ★

QUICK QUIZ



1. WHEN JOE CALZAGHE RETIRED FROM BOXING WITH A 46-0 RECORD, HE COULD LOOK BACK ON A CAREER IN WHICH ONLY TWO JUDGES HAD HIM TRAILING ON THE SCORECARDS AT THE END OF A FIGHT. WHO WERE THOSE JUDGES?

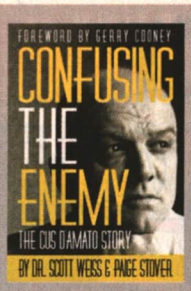
« **2.** EDWIN VALERO HAD 27 FIGHTS BEFORE HIS RING CAREER WAS CUT SHORT BY HIS UNTIMELY DEATH. HOW MANY OF THOSE FIGHTS DID VALERO WIN BY KNOCKOUT?

3. MATCH THE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION WITH THE STATE IN WHICH HE WAS BORN:

1. JAMES JEFFRIES	A. MISSOURI
2. JACK JOHNSON	B. NEBRASKA
3. JESS WILLARD	C. OHIO
4. MAX BAER	D. NEW YORK
5. JAMES BRADDOCK	E. ALABAMA
6. JOE LOUIS	F. TEXAS
7. FLOYD PATTERSON	G. GEORGIA
8. SONNY LISTON	H. NORTH CAROLINA
9. LEON SPINKS	I. ARKANSAS
10. LARRY HOLMES	J. KANSAS

Quick Quiz Answers: (1) Adelaide Byrd gave Bernard Hopkins the nod over Calzaghe by a 114-113 margin. But she was outvoted by Chuck Giampa (116-111) and Ted Gimza (115-112). Earlier in Calzaghe's career, Robert Byrd and John Duggan favored him over Robin Reid by a 116-111 margin. That outweighed Paul Thomas, who raised eyebrows with a 116-111 score in Reid's favor. ★ **(2)** All of them: 27 fights, 27 wins by knockout. ★ **(3)** 1-C, 2-F, 3-J, 4-B, 5-D, 6-E, 7-H, 8-I, 9-A, 10-G

ON THE BOOKSHELF



"Confusing the Enemy: The Cus D'Amato Story" by Scott Weiss and Paige Stover (Acanthus Publishing) is a massive book, weighing in at 729 pages and just under four pounds.

D'Amato was a complex man who attracted adjectives and nouns by the score. He was passionate, paranoid, elusive, enigmatic, controlling, charismatic, a genius with a brilliant boxing mind and more. The authors write that he was deemed unfit for military service at the onset of World War II because a pre-induction examination determined that he had "great potential for leadership" but also "a high probability for psychiatric issues." For those who knew D'Amato, that rings true.

The book covers all of the familiar D'Amato touchstones such as his relationships with Floyd Patterson, Jose Torres, Mike Tyson, Jimmy Jacobs and the mob.

There's also the claim that D'Amato was gay. A lot of people who knew Cus think that's true. The problem is that the contention is presented here in unsourced, often-novelized passages with fictitious dialogue.

That leads to the fundamental problem underlying "Confusing the Enemy." The authors have chosen to present D'Amato's story through the eyes of a fictitious sportswriter named Mel Kunsterman, who appears in Zelig-like fashion throughout the book. This novelization means that it's hard for the reader to know what's fiction and what can be trusted as real. It also serves to cover up occasionally-sloppy reporting and questionable statements of fact. For example, the authors maintain that D'Amato's training techniques enabled Jose Torres "to throw a six-punch combination in two-fifths of a second." I don't believe that's true.

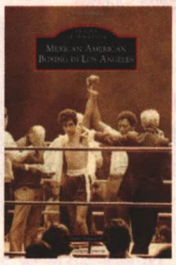
In the end, "Confusing the Enemy" leaves its readers with an entertaining but flawed impressionistic portrait of a multifaceted man.

★

"Beautiful Brutality" (Bantam Press) is a memoir by Sky Sports boxing commentator Adam Smith that focuses on boxing families. These families include those joined by blood and marriage and also the sometimes more intimate bonds between fighters and their boxing teams.

Smith calls boxing "the hardest of all sports" and writes, "Through the good, the bad, and the plain ugly, there is constantly something happening in boxing. Events swing rapidly. The drama rivets us as the action twists and turns. Colourful and engaging personalities rise and fall while the boundaries between life and death are brought frighteningly close. We, the 'experts,' are sometimes made to look like fools as the toughest of men clash and the predictable becomes the unpredictable. Strange events materialize within seconds and alter outcomes in weird but also dangerous ways. We are consumed by this magnetic marvelous world that is opportunistic, troublesome, gripping, and addictive. Boxing draws you in, holds you there. You can never get out." ★

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book ("Thomas Hauser on Boxing: Another Year Inside the Sweet Science") was published by the University of Arkansas Press.



Mexican-Americans have been making their marks in boxing at least since the beginning of the 20th century – probably earlier – and win titles in large numbers today, perpetuating one of the sport's greatest success stories.

Author and historian Gene Aguilera, in his book "Mexican American Boxing in Los Angeles" (Arcadia Publishing), takes the reader on an entertaining journey of Los Angeles' rich, Mexican-American-centered boxing heritage.

The story is told in precious photos and detailed captions presented chronologically, the theme of the popular "Images of America" series, which celebrates the history of locales throughout the U.S.

Aguilera opens with Aurelio Herrera, a hard-punching lightweight who fought frequently in Los Angeles around the turn of the 20th century. "He could hit as hard as (heavyweight) Jim Jeffries although he was only a lightweight," opponent and Hall of Famer Battling Nelson said of Herrera.

That got me hooked. I didn't put the 128-page book down until I got to know better "Mexican" Joe Rivers, great fighters such as Manuel Ortiz and Baby Arizmendi, local hero Enrique Bolanos, Art "Golden Boy" Aragon, the immensely talented Mando Ramos, Danny "Little Red" Lopez, Carlos Palomino, Bobby Chacon, Gabriel and Rafael Ruelas, Hall of Famer Oscar De La Hoya and so many others who created a legacy in Los Angeles.

I've been covering boxing for a quarter century. I also grew up and live in Los Angeles, so the book was of particular interest to me.

However, I think anyone with an interest in the sport can appreciate the Mexican-American boxing tradition in L.A. and would find the book worthwhile. I think it's terrific. ★

– Michael Rosenthal

10 A MONTHLY BOXING LIST

THIS MONTH: A number of prominent champions tasted defeat only one time in their professional careers. Here are 10 of them:

1. JOHN L. SULLIVAN
38-1-1, 32 KOs
Met his match against a slick James J. Corbett in 1892.

2. JAMES J. JEFFRIES
19-1-2, 16 KOs
Came out of retirement to be KO'd by Jack Johnson in 1910.

3. GENE TUNNEY
65-1-1, 48 KOs
Lost one of five meetings with the great Harry Greb.

4. KHAOSAI GALAXY
47-1, 41 KOs
Lost in his seventh fight and then won 41 in a row.

5. AARON PRYOR
39-1, 35 KOs
KO'd by journeyman Bobby Joe Young in an ill-fated comeback.

6. MICHAEL SPINKS
31-1, 21 KOs
Survived only 91 seconds in Mike Tyson's greatest triumph.

7. MYUNG WOO YUH
38-1, 14 KOs
Avenged a loss to Hiroki Ioka, fought once more and retired.

8. RIDDICK BOWE
43-1, 33 KOs
Lost one of three fights in his epic series with Evander Holyfield.

9. NASEEM HAMED
36-1, 31 KOs
Fought only once after losing badly to Marco Antonio Barrera.

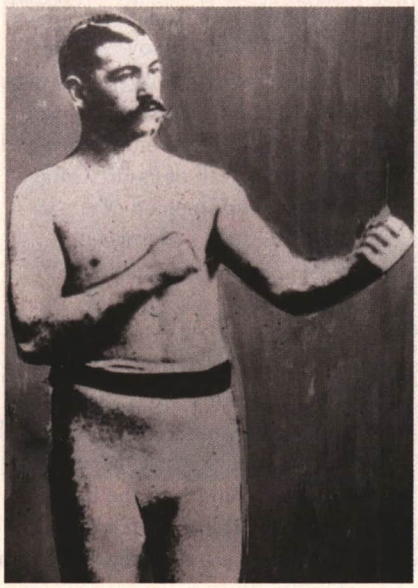
10. HENRY MASKE
31-1, 11 KOs
Came out of retirement to avenge his loss to Virgil Hill.

Mike Tyson (right) spoiled Michael Spinks' perfect record.

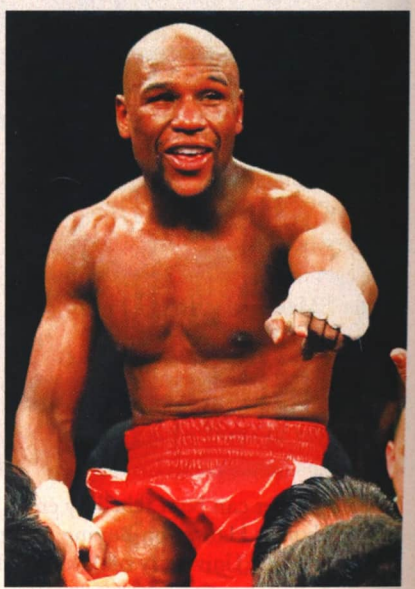
Note: Sullivan, Jeffries and Spinks lost in their final fights.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Degrees of separation between fighters of the past and their more contemporary counterparts.
This month, we wondered how many steps – or whether it was possible at all – to connect the original king of modern boxing, John L. Sullivan, to current monarch Floyd Mayweather Jr. We did it in 16 steps. Sullivan retired in 1892, 122 years ago.



« **JOHN L. SULLIVAN** fought …
JAMES J. CORBETT, who fought …
BOB FITZSIMMONS, who fought …
JACK JOHNSON, who fought …
JESS WILLARD, who fought …
JACK DEMPSEY, who fought …
JACK SHARKEY, who fought …
JOE LOUIS, who fought …
ROCKY MARCIANO, who fought …
ARCHIE MOORE, who fought …
MUHAMMAD ALI, who fought …
GEORGE FOREMAN, who fought …
EVANDER HOLYFIELD, who fought …
JOHN RUIZ, who fought …
ROY JONES JR., who fought …
BERNARD HOPKINS, who fought …
OSCAR DE LA HOYA, who fought …
FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. »



GOOD, BAD, WORSE

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

By **Michael Rosenthal**

GOOD

I should be clear on one thing: The decision of Canelo Alvarez, Golden Boy Promotions' biggest star, to jump from Showtime to HBO was not good for Showtime for obvious reasons. The move arguably is good for boxing, though. No event since the beginning of the so-called "cold war" between Golden Boy/Showtime and Top Rank/HBO symbolizes the recent flaw more distinctly than this one. Bernard Hopkins, another Golden Boy star, took the first step when he pushed the company to make a fight between him and Sergey Kovalev on HBO. Alvarez then took an even bigger step by jumping ship. Those moves, combined with the reconciliation of Oscar De La Hoya (Golden Boy) and his former promoter, Bob Arum (Top Rank), leave the door wide open to fights that couldn't be made the past few years. One of the biggest is an enticing mega-matchup between Alvarez and RING middleweight champ Miguel Cotto but there are many more potential pairings. Suddenly it seems as if anything is possible, which is how it should be.

BAD

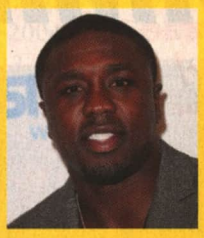
Another big fight, another new member of THE RING's "Poor Judge-ment" club. The latest wacky scorecard was turned in by Robert Hoyle after the Mickey Bey-Miguel Vazquez fight on the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Marcos Maidana II card on Sept. 13. The fight was close. Vazquez seemed to have the edge early in the fight but Bey rallied, leaving the result in question at the final bell. Judge Adalaide Byrd scored it 115-113 for Vazquez (about what I had) while Julie Lederman had it 115-113 for Bey. Hoyle's score? 119-109 for Bey, or 11 rounds to one. Now, as former Nevada State Athletic Commission Executive Director Keith Kizer pointed out to me more than once, a close fight theoretically could be scored a 120-108 shutout. That's true. A judge could give 12 very tight rounds to the same fighter. The odds of that happening – at least legitimately – seem remote, though. Indeed, a scorecard that deviates radically from the other two in a specific fight is a red flag that something is wrong. This problem needs to be fixed.

WORSE

The editors of THE RING learned as we were going to press that promoter Dan Goossen had died from liver cancer. The news hit me hard. I got to know Dan in the early 1990s, when he ran the family-owned Ten Goose Boxing promotional company and I covered boxing for the Los Angeles Daily News. I cut my teeth in the sport covering his cards, which featured the likes of Gabriel and Rafael Ruelas. I always admired Dan's energy and passion, as well as his sharp mind, which I believe was sometimes underestimated. But the one thing that stands above everything else for me was his humor. For example, he would call me periodically at the Daily News pretending to be an irate reader or some other bogus character just to give me a hard time. He was so good at it that it always took me a few seconds to figure it out. And I always laughed. Dan made it all so much fun. Those were great years for me, my favorite in boxing. Dan and I drifted apart in recent years, as he became a major player in the sport and I moved on from the Daily News. But he always had a special place in my heart – and always will. Rest in peace old friend.

FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT



ANDRE BERTO

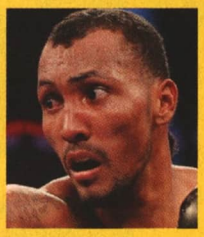
WELTERWEIGHT CONTENDER

MUSIC - "R&B." ★ **CAR -** "My dream car would be a Bugatti, I drive a Range Rover." ★ **FOOD -** "Caribbean food." ★ **TATTOOS -** "I don't have any tattoos." ★ **ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING -** "Barry Sanders." ★ **MOVIE -** "'Paid in Full' and 'New Jack City.'" ★ **VIDEO GAME -** "'Street Fighter' and 'John Madden.'"

LUCAS MATTHYSSE

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT CONTENDER

MUSIC - "I like Argentine rock." ★ **CAR -** "I have a Volkswagen Amarok." ★ **FOOD -** "Asado, typical Argentine food." ★ **TATTOOS -** "I have 32 tattoos. I have one with 'Mom I love you,' the name of my daughter, I have the map of Argentina – they are the most important." ★ **ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING -** "Diego Maradona. I don't sit and watch other sports, only boxing." ★ **MOVIE -** "'Titanic,'" ★ **VIDEO GAME -** "Fight Night Round 4."



ANSELMO MORENO

WBA BANTAMWEIGHT TITLEHOLDER

MUSIC - "I like Panamanian reggae. El Rookie is my favorite singer." ★ **CAR -** "Right now I own a BMW 630i and a BMW X6 but I want to buy a Suburban." ★ **FOOD -** "Definitely Panamanian food. Arroz con pollo (rice with chicken) from my maid, Lucia, is the best." ★ **TATTOOS -** "Yes, one with the name of my eldest son, Rocco." ★ **ATHLETE OUTSIDE BOXING -** "LeBron James." ★ **MOVIE -** "'Gran Torino' with Clint Eastwood." ★ **VIDEO GAME -** "Mario Bros."

— Anson Wainwright

RING POLL

A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS

RingTV.com readers evidently want the pound-for-pound king to take a significant risk in his next fight. We asked: **Who would you like to see Floyd Mayweather Jr. face in his next fight, assuming it isn't Manny Pacquiao?** Here is how you responded.

THE PERCENTAGES:

GENNADY GOLOVKIN	46.50
AMIR KHAN	12.98
KEITH THURMAN	12.60
MIGUEL COTTO	9.12
TIM BRADLEY	6.89
KELL BROOK	3.68
OTHER	3.58
ERISLANDY LARA	2.06
CANELO ALVAREZ	1.11
DEMETRIUS ANDRADE	0.89
DEVON ALEXANDER	0.30
PETER QUILLIN	0.28

Note: 4,946 readers voted

By Anson Wainwright

WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO

Wladimir Klitschko has respect for the skills of Sultan Ibragimov, David Haye and Tony Thompson.

Wladimir Klitschko has been the dominant heavyweight of his era, ruling over the big boys for eight-plus years without a loss.

The Ukrainian giant will be a first-ballot selection to the International Boxing Hall of Fame five years after he retires but, even at 38, he doesn't appear to be anywhere close to completing his legacy.

Consider what he has already accomplished:

- His reign as world champion is second only to that of Joe Louis, who held the title for 11-plus years. He has been a titleholder for more than 10 years over two reigns.
- His streak of 16 consecutive title defenses ranks only behind those of Louis (25) and Larry Holmes (20). He has 21 defenses overall.
- He is 23-2 in world title fights.
- He's 20-0 since his last loss (in 2004), including 14 knockouts.
- He's 62-3, with 52 knockouts.

And Klitschko's success didn't begin in the professional ranks, as he won the super heavyweight gold medal in the 1996 Olympics.

After turning pro, the younger

brother of Vitali Klitschko easily outpointed Chris Byrd to win the WBO version of the heavyweight title in 2000 and successfully defended five times. Then his career went into a temporary tailspin.

Klitschko lost his belt in his sixth defense when he was stopped in the second round by Corrie Sanders in 2003. He won his next two fights but was stopped again, this time in five rounds by Lamon Brewster for the vacant WBO title.

Some believed Klitschko was finished. Instead, after partnering with the late, great Emanuel Steward, he has put together one of the most impressive streaks in boxing history. He won the IBF title by stopping Chris Byrd in 2006 and then added the WBO, WBA and RING Magazine titles, barely facing a legitimate challenge along the way.

Klitschko is aware that the great Louis' record appears to be within his reach but he believes it's too early to dwell on that. He doesn't know what the future holds.

"I'm so far from that record," Klitschko told THE RING. "Eleven years and seven months is a long way to go. So I honestly don't think about it. ... I'm enjoying myself. I don't know how long I'm going to stay in the sport, one fight, a couple more fights, one year, a couple more years. It depends on my health. That you usually cannot control and the motivation you cannot control."

Klitschko has fought all the best heavyweights of his era – except one. And we'll have to excuse him for that.

"I'm very happy that I didn't face my brother," he said with a laugh. Vitali held the WBC title in 2004 and again from 2008 to 2012, giving the Klitschkos all the major belts for a time.

Still, Wladimir has his detractors among fans and the media. No one can dispute that he wins fights but some bemoan a style they consider safety-first, a product of the knockout losses earlier in his career.

He shrugs his shoulders when this is mentioned.

"I understand the criticism and I understand here and there I could have done a better job. It's just something you have to live with. I think it's good that it exists. I take criticism as a motivation," he said.

Klitschko took time out from training for his Nov. 15 bout with Kubrat Pulev to speak with THE RING about the best he has faced in 10 key categories.

MOST SKILLFUL

Sultan Ibragimov, David Haye and Tony Thompson: I would say Ibragimov. Very sneaky, very fast, very technical considering his size and the way he does it. I would say David Haye had really good skills in my fight, his speed and movement. Some punches missed but he did good. I cannot forget Tony Thompson, I fought him twice. He was awkward and he was very smart. I would probably say Ibragimov, Haye and Thompson.

BEST JAB

Kubrat Pulev: Kubrat Pulev is using his jab very good. I expect him to have the best jab.

BEST DEFENSE

Thompson: Tony Thompson by far. He's not fast but he's awkward. He's very difficult to hit, very difficult. With Emanuel for the first fight, we were analyzing the fight. There's always something in common with Thompson: None of the fighters hit him clean. I couldn't land clean punches, it was very challenging.

BEST CHIN

Samuel Peter: Samuel Peter in 2005. I hit him with so many clean shots and in the 12th round I thought I broke my knuckles with a left hook. He wobbled but he was still on his feet. I think I took life out of him in that fight because he was hit so much. In the first fight his determination and will to win was amazing.

BEST PUNCHER

Corrie Sanders: He was very fast and he had really powerful hands. I've been in boxing for 25 years and I never fought anybody in this game that punched like Corrie Sanders.

FASTEST HANDS

Eddie Chambers: Eddie Chambers I think had really good hand speed. I think David Haye and Ibragimov also.

FASTEST FEET

Haye: Probably my sparring partners because they're lightweight (laughs). ... I would say probably Haye. He was very skilled and very quick. His balance is not as good but his foot speed is.

SMARTEST

Ibragimov: Absolutely Ibragimov. He was very sneaky, he knew what he was doing, he was smart. Tony Thompson was smart, so was Chris Byrd.

STRONGEST

Peter: Samuel Peter in the first fight. He was a machine, very big guy. He was like a brick that you cannot crush, like a truck.

BEST OVERALL

They all have something but overall I think it's a question mark. I will answer when I am done with my career. I couldn't pick any because I'm not done with my career. Let me continue and we will see.

By David Greisman

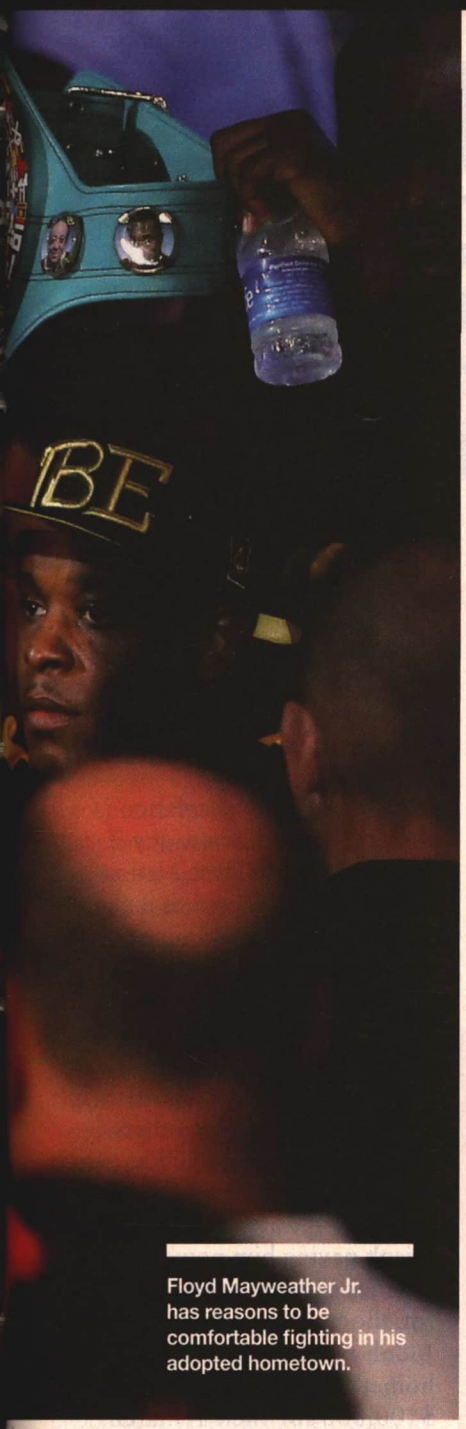
MAYWEATHER'S TOWN

A THREE-YEAR PERIOD PROVIDES STARK EVIDENCE OF THE VALUE OF 'MONEY' IN LAS VEGAS

If ever you want to wholly comprehend the sway that Floyd Mayweather Jr. has on the boxing capital of Las Vegas, all you need to do is look at a 33-month period in the state of Nevada.

There was the jail time that Mayweather faced for battering and harassing an ex-girlfriend who is the mother to a few of his children. That jail time was postponed so that Mayweather could receive millions upon millions to fight Miguel Cotto on pay-per-view, and Nevada and the Vegas casino and tourism industry could profit from one of the biggest bouts of the year.

There was the licensing of Mayweather despite the crime of



Floyd Mayweather Jr. has reasons to be comfortable fighting in his adopted hometown.

domestic battery, which wasn't the first time he was found guilty of violence against women.

There was the exiling of disgraced boxing judge C.J. Ross after her abominable 114-114 score in Mayweather's win over Canelo Alvarez in September 2013. Ross deserved to have her card called into question but it's incredibly rare for judges to face such scrutiny from athletic commissions. Apparently commissions will back up their officials except when the biggest star in the sport is involved. (Ross also had Timothy Bradley winning the first fight with Manny Pacquiao but at least all three judges had that bout scored seven rounds to five, one way or another.)

And then there was referee Kenny Bayless' performance in Mayweather's rematch with Marcos Maidana this past September, which was particularly troublesome given Bayless's reputation as one of the better referees in the sport and one of the best in the state.

The ref allowed Mayweather to hold and hold and hold some more, straightjacketing Maidana in close so that he couldn't unload his usual barrages. And Bayless broke the fighters up even when the clinching still left Maidana with one hand or both hands free, doubly taking away any chance the Argentine slugger had to work where he had his best opportunity to do so.

Granted, the reason so many make a bigger stink about Bayless than they did about the poor job Tony Weeks did in the first Mayweather-Maidana fight is because people dislike Mayweather and want to see him lose. Yet Maidana got away with a lot back in May, from the rabbit punches to a head butt to one moment where he tried to knee Mayweather.

This being boxing, and this being a business, unsportsmanlike conduct doesn't get you unlicensed. Instead, Maidana got a rematch, Mayweather got officiating that this time favored him and Mayweather put forth a better performance, holding aside, winning via unanimous decision.

Money has always meant power and influence. Even Maidana hasn't been immune, given that he ultimately gave in and wore gloves different from the ones he wanted to wear for both the first and second Mayweather fights because Mayweather objected and because no payday could possibly match the two he got for facing Floyd.

Maidana had his own dirty moment in the rematch. It came in the eighth round, when Mayweather leaned atop Maidana and cupped his glove over Maidana's mouth. Maidana appeared to bite Mayweather's glove. It was the rare occasion involving Mayweather in which someone actually bit the hand that feeds him.

★

Peter Quillin's next fight

better earn him more money and bigger opportunites than a bout with Matt Korobov would have. Otherwise, he will have pulled out of a scheduled fight with Korobov and dropped his middleweight title for the wrong reasons. He will have done so because of politics and at the expense of profit.

Quillin might've made those moves because rapper Jay-Z was going to promote the bout instead of Golden Boy, a situation that boxing insiders believe bothered Quillin's adviser, Al Haymon. Not only does Haymon work primarily with Golden Boy but he also has a history with Jay-Z's wife, superstar singer Beyonce, who once sued Haymon.

Korobov himself wasn't important. The only reason the slowly developing prospect appeared on HBO earlier this year is because Top Rank promotes him and because the network needs to build up potential opponents for

Gennady Golovkin.

And it's not that Quillin's title was particularly meaningful. We know that the RING champion is Miguel Cotto, who beat Sergio Martinez earlier this year. And we know that the top guy at 160 is Golovkin, whom we believe would punish Cotto worse than Antonio Margarito once did.

But Quillin was going to get paid quite well nevertheless. What bothers us is that Quillin turned down the Korobov fight for business reasons that are none of his business, missing out on a $1.4 million payday that would've been at least three times as much as he had previously earned in a single night.

Then he gave reasons that sounded reasonable but still weren't truly applicable.

He said he was told by his team to relax and spend time with his newborn child. But that seems not to have been the original plan, as Golden Boy, which promotes him, had put in a bid to stage the Korobov fight, likely at the behest of Quillin's team. And those who were going to be involved with the show reportedly were willing to accommodate Quillin's family commitments by moving the fight back from Nov. 1 to a later date.

Quillin said he wanted to be loyal to Showtime, which had showcased him five times over the past two or so years. If Quillin-Korobov had indeed aired elsewhere, it's unlikely network executives would've held against him something that was otherwise out of his control.

He said the $1.4 million payday wouldn't really be $1.4 million after taxes and the assorted cuts that go to his team members. Whatever he got paid would still be more than he'd received before.

And he said losing his title didn't matter so long as he still went on to fight for the trinket held by Daniel Jacobs, a natural match to make as both are from the New York borough of Brooklyn, both are affiliated with Golden Boy and, most important, both are advised by the ever-powerful Haymon. It's uncertain whether the money for Quillin to face Jacobs would surpass what he was getting for Korobov. It's also doubtful that the Jacobs fight will take place in 2014.

This is not at all akin to when Bernard Hopkins turned down a lucrative rematch with Roy Jones Jr. and ultimately benefited by facing and beating Oscar De La Hoya. There was no guarantee that the middleweight Hopkins would defeat a Jones who at that time was still atop the light heavyweight division.

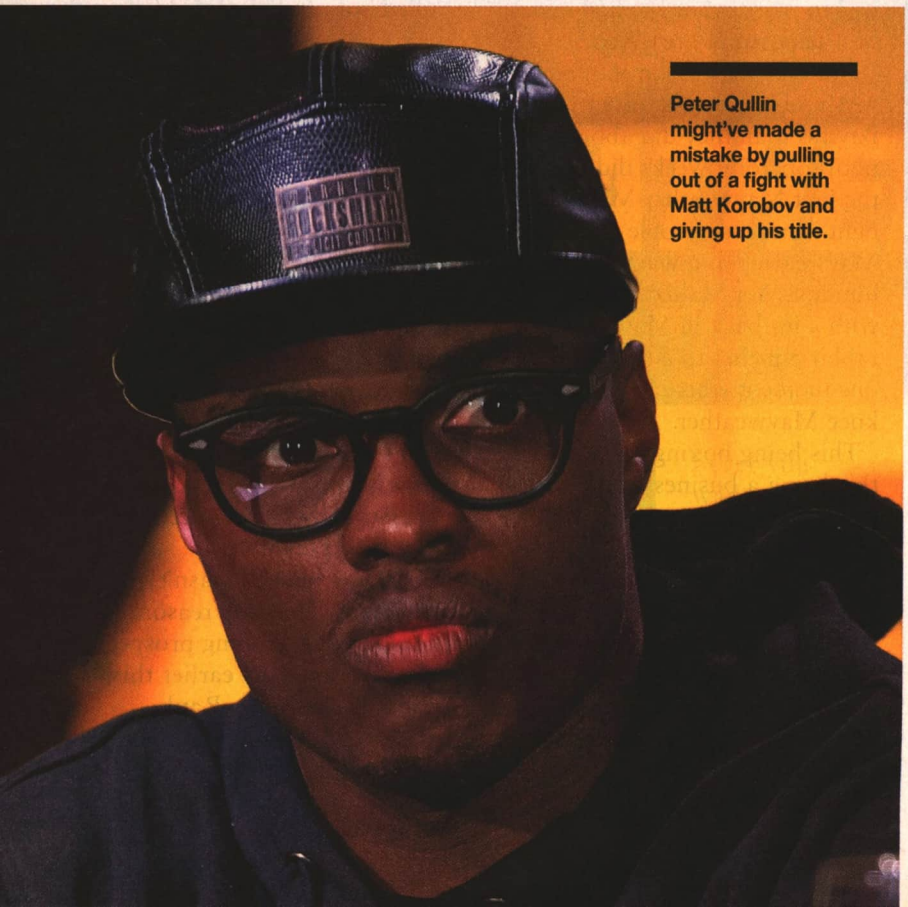
Quillin would've been clearly favored to beat Korobov. He could've gotten nine figures for the win and still been able to move on to Jacobs early next year.

The consensus speculation is that this came down to Jay-Z and his company, Roc Nation Sports, which wanted to make a big splash with its boxing debut. Beyond the Beyonce-Haymon drama, there's the fact that boxing is a remarkably competitive marketplace; companies don't necessarily help themselves by helping others.

This isn't helping Quillin, though. He must trust that this will pay off down the line because it isn't paying him now.

Other fighters take chances for short money. Zab Judah went to Cory Spinks' hometown and got paid just $100,000 for their rematch, yet Judah knocked Spinks out to regain the welterweight championship. Terence Crawford jumped up to 140 on short notice against Breidis Prescott because it meant he could debut on HBO and make an impression in the process.

Quillin would've gotten large money and wouldn't have been taking much of a chance. Instead, he's sitting on his rear end — and talking out of it as well.



Peter Quillin might've made a mistake by pulling out of a fight with Matt Korobov and giving up his title.

GORDON BROWN/NICHOLAS KAMM/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; JACKSON; KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES

ARE WE LEARNING YET?

In the days leading up to his Sept. 13 rematch with **Marcos Maidana, Floyd Mayweather Jr.** was sued by **Shantel Jackson**, a former girlfriend who said he abused and humiliated her, and accused on Twitter of being both illiterate and a bad tipper.

Then he was asked about **Ray Rice**. The NFL player had already been suspended for two games for allegedly knocking his fiancee unconscious in an elevator. Once a video showing the actual punch went public, Rice was cut from the Baltimore Ravens and indefinitely suspended by the league while his corporate sponsors scattered like roaches in a spotlight.

Mayweather's response? "Things happen. You live and you learn," he said. "No one is perfect."

Mayweather criticized NFL Commissioner **Roger Goodell** for increasing the original suspension. Mayweather opined on what it must be like for Rice to lose his job and his passion, football, and imagined out loud what his own life would be like if someone took away "the biggest deal in sports history," referring to his six-fight deal with Showtime. Mayweather downplayed his own criminal history of domestic violence by mentioning that unlike **O.J. Simpson, Chris Brown, Chad Ochocinco** and Rice, there were no pictures of victims to implicate him. Regarding the two months he spent in jail in 2012, Mayweather pointed out that **Malcolm X, Martin Luther King** and a whole lot of other people had been to jail also.

One thing Mayweather did not do was say: "A professional football player punching a woman in the face is bad."

The media outside the boxing world wondered why Mayweather was again preparing to collect a minimum of $32 million for fighting Maidana while Rice's professional career had essentially ended in a public execution. Why was Las Vegas still adorned with Mayweather's face?

The boxing media handled the story a little differently, and not just by weirdly mentioning that Rice used a left hook. Mayweather was universally criticized but the words "bad week" and "distraction" were used a lot, as if to describe a nasty case of hiccups. And that's pretty much what it turned out to be. After the fight, attention quickly turned to **Manny Pacquiao**, rumors of disharmony between Mayweather and his second-in-command, **Leonard Ellerbe**, and a call for Mayweather to appear before the Nevada State Athletic Commission to discuss some potentially unsafe sparring practices and pot smoking (Mayweather did not partake) depicted on an episode of Showtime's "All Access" program.

"I don't want to speculate on what can happen out of fairness to Mr. Mayweather," said NSAC chairman **Francisco Aguilar**.

Two prominent critics were ESPN2's **Keith Olbermann**, who named Mayweather No. 1 on his "World's Worst" list, and longtime HBO broadcaster **Jim Lampley** who, wrapping up a scathing monologue on his show "The Fight Game," said, "Fact is, for the betterment of boxing's image, Floyd Mayweather's retirement cannot come a moment too soon."

Lampley's own history with accusations of domestic abuse made his statements a bit problematic but at the very least they provided a counterpoint to what a fed-up Ellerbe said a couple days before the Maidana fight: "No more questions and no more talking about this."

Let's hope that never happens.

A brief rundown of some stories crowded out by the above: Pacquiao will open boxing training centers in China. ★ The WBC, WBA and IBF have agreed to implement instant replay in championship fights. ★ **Sugar Ray Leonard** has been training singer Usher to play him in the **Roberto Duran** movie "Hands of Stone." ★ **Omar Narvaez**'s manager, Osvaldo Rivero, was robbed by gunmen on a highway in Argentina; they took $45,000 in purse money and Narvaez's ring clothes for his fight the following night.

And one more item that seems appropriate: **Mike Tyson** was being interviewed on live TV in Toronto about his traveling one-man show when the host, **Nathan Downer**, asked him about endorsing the local mayor (the famous crack connoisseur **Rob Ford**) for reelection. In the process, Downer referred to Tyson as "a convicted rapist."

Something happened in Tyson's face and an expression we all know from long ago began to reappear. Somewhere out there, **Evander Holyfield**'s ear began to tingle. While the "new" Tyson struggled to maintain composure, the "old" Tyson's disdain for anything resembling giving a f—k propelled a string of profanities in Downer's direction. It was a reminder of what originally captivated us about Tyson, and what we overlooked so the spectacle could go on.

But less than a week later the new Mike was back. **Ryan Chesley,** 29, was lying on a Las Vegas freeway with broken bones and torn ligaments after crashing his motorcycle. Tyson showed up, prevented other motorists from moving Chesley and gently reassured the injured man that everything would be OK. He then departed, as Chesley said, "like some sort of superhero." RING

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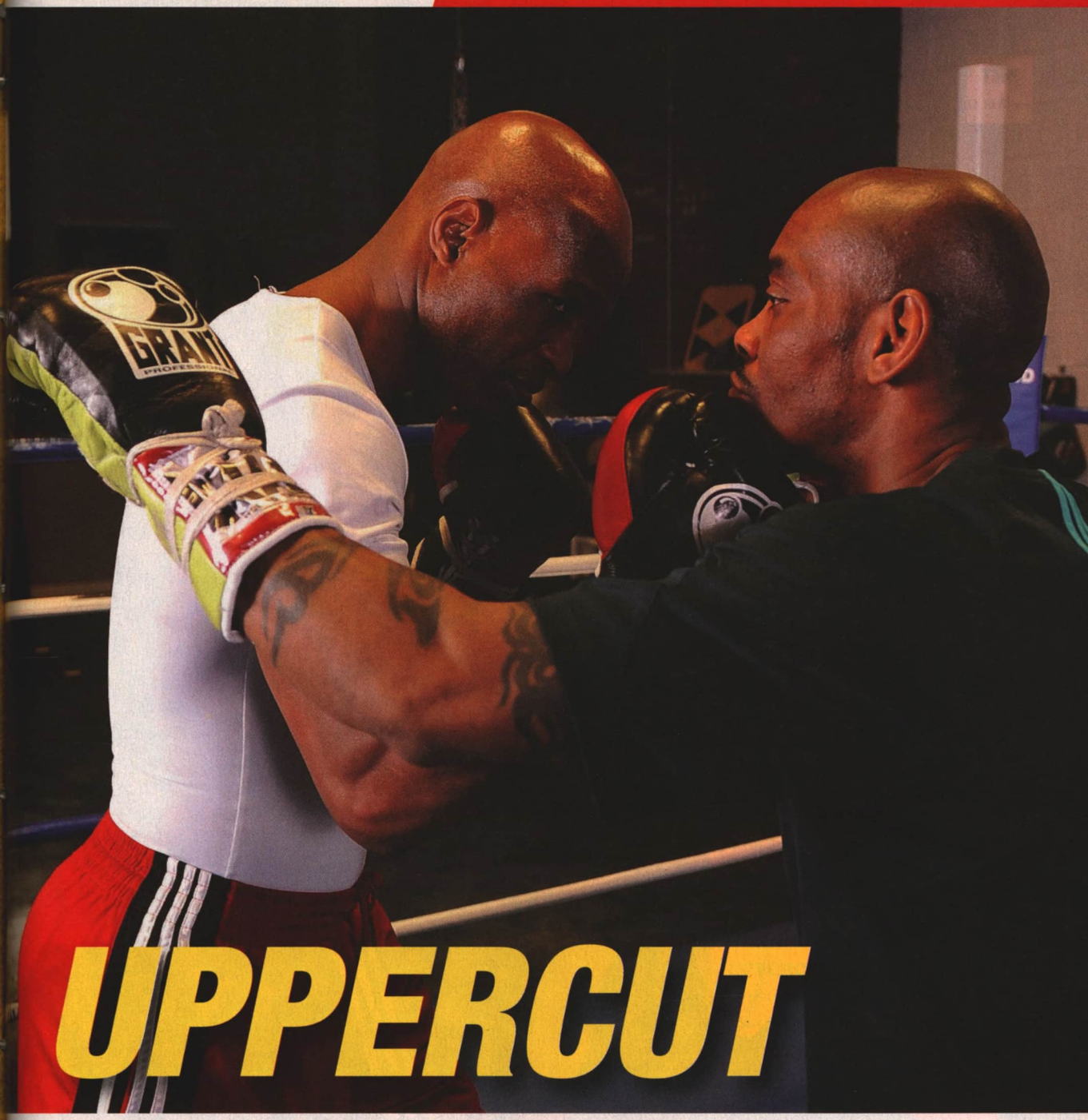


UPPERCUT

'IT'S DEFINITELY ONE OF THE BEST POWER PUNCHES YOU CAN USE'

Good boxing demands good technique. A missed step here, an off-balance shot there, and you could be looking up from the canvas. The sport is as much about foot positioning as it is punching power. It's a ballet of fists and feet, of the whole body functioning as one. To achieve that, one must master the fundamentals.

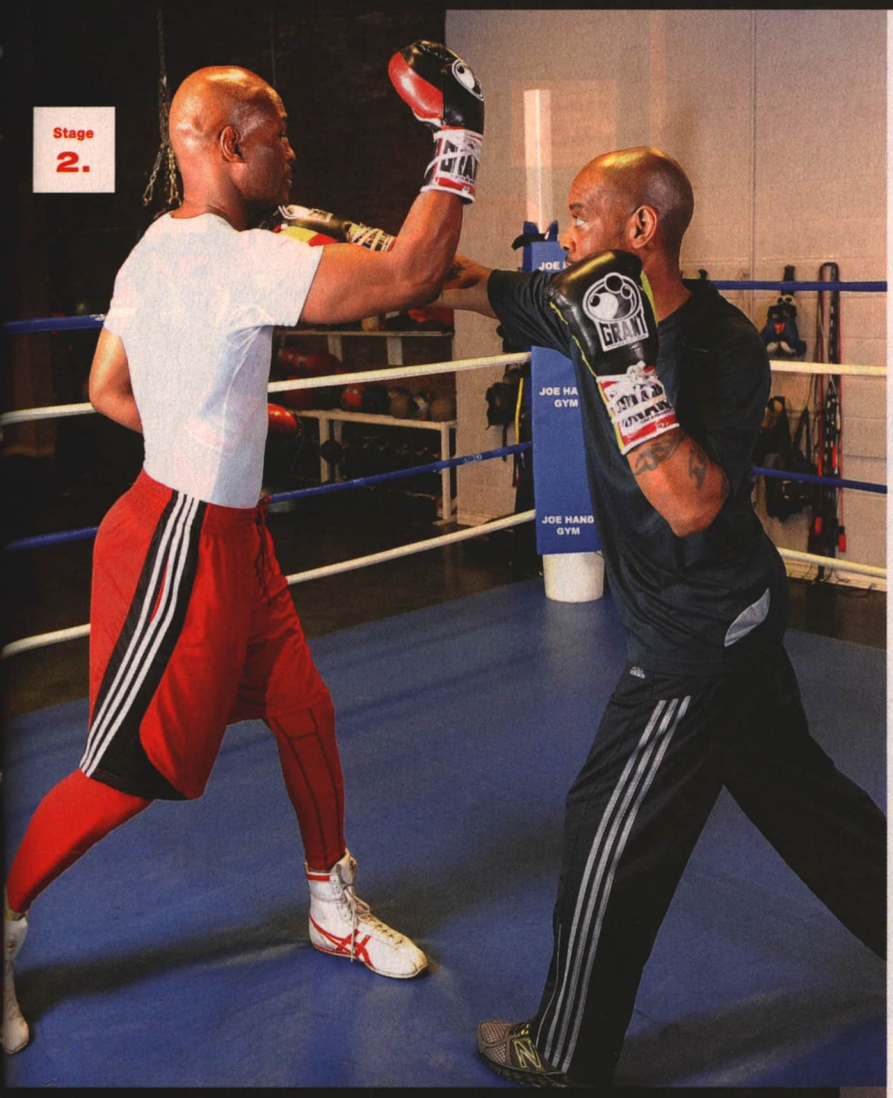
Perhaps no one today has a better understanding of the basics than future Hall of Famer Bernard Hopkins, which is why we asked him to play the leading role in "Perfect Execution."

Each month in THE RING Magazine, Hopkins will demonstrate a particular skill and explain how to execute it. Photographs of Hopkins and assistant Danny Davis will help you understand the moves.

Also, for the first time, we will have an accompanying video on our website, RingTV.com, which will allow you to watch and listen as Hopkins imparts his wisdom.

This month: the uppercut. »

Stage
1.
JOE HAND
GYM



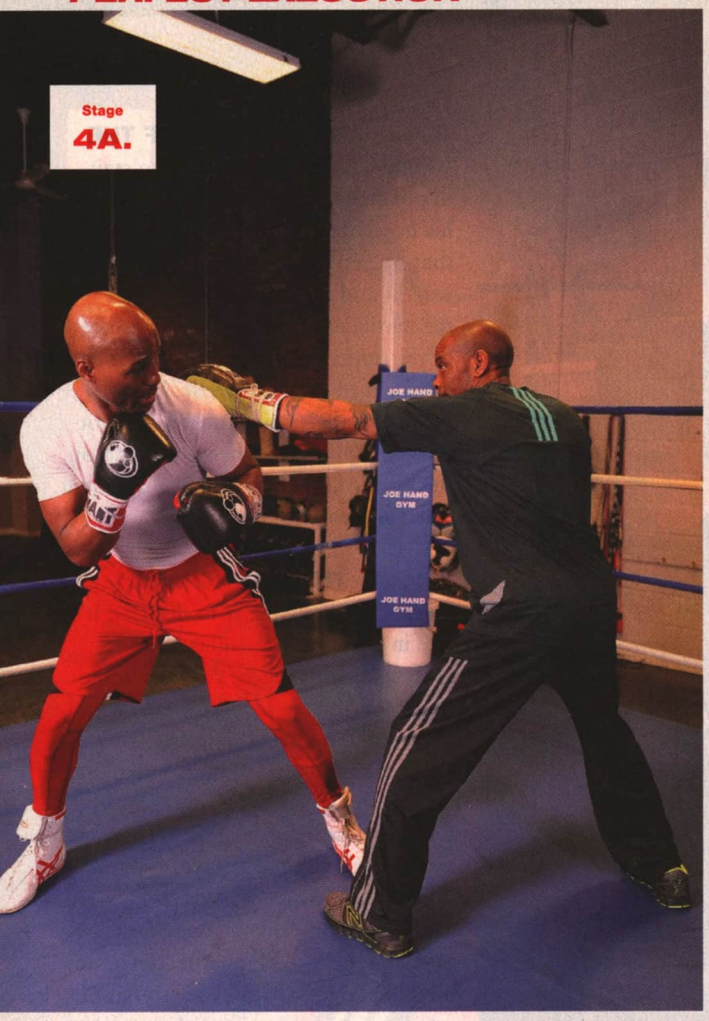
Stage 1. IMPORTANCE OF THE UPPERCUT. It's important to stay in position to get an opponent to pop his head up. You need to work for that opening, you need to work your way in and see the opportunity to throw the uppercut. The importance of the uppercut is to get an opponent's head out of a tight defense. You see guys with their chins tucked and not looking up. That's when you jump on the opportunity to throw the uppercut. Then you can go from there.

Stage 2. THE WRONG WAY. Overreaching can lead to disaster. It's like in the Buster Douglas-Evander Holyfield fight, where you throw the uppercut out too far, like Douglas did, reaching and hitting nothing. Then you get countered. Fighters make that mistake by seeing something that is not there, or they force the uppercut thinking that the opponent is giving them a look where there could be an opening, but maybe there isn't. It's dangerous to throw the uppercut outside the punching zone. To be safe, whether you hit or miss, it's good to throw the uppercut in close where you won't pay a price and get countered. To throw the uppercut two or three feet away is a mistake.

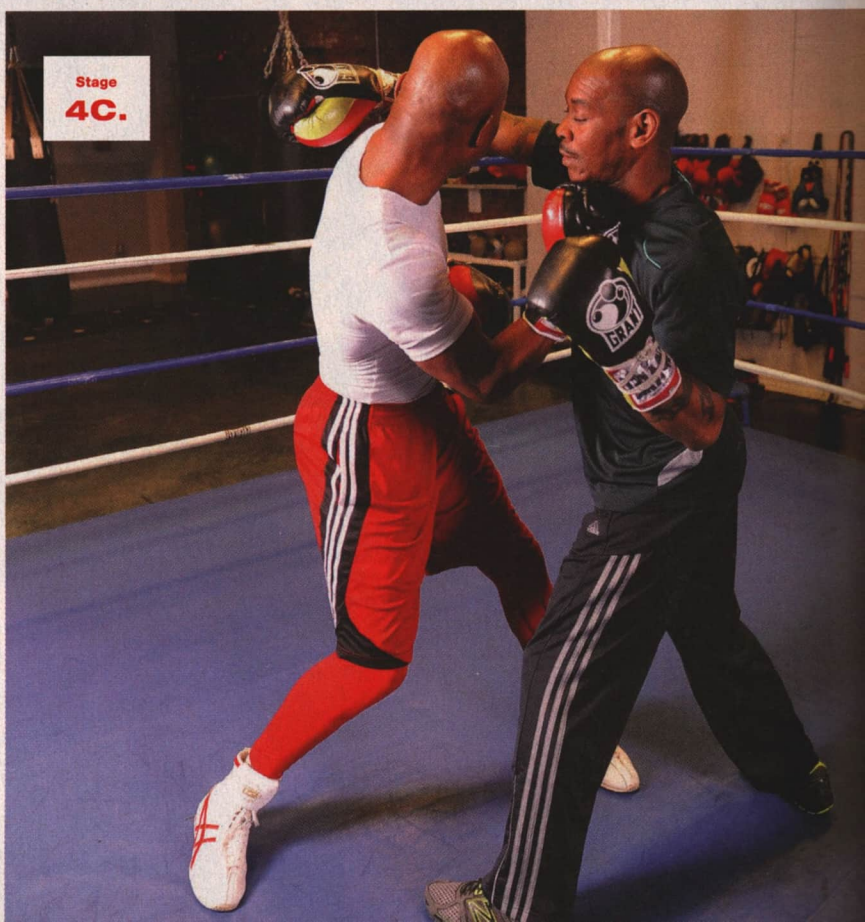
Stage 3. BLOCKING THE UPPERCUT. Everything can be countered. Every plus has a minus. Inside, you see me cuffing the uppercut and then swinging around to counter off the block with a left hook to Danny's head. I anticipated what he was going to do, caught it, and attacked off the opening that I saw.

IT'S BACK

Bernard Hopkins' popular how-to series on boxing fundamentals has returned and will appear each month in THE RING. We've added a video component to the feature. To watch and listen to Hopkins giving instruction, just scan the QR code below or go to http://bit.ly/1mCuvKT



Stage 4. SETTING UP THE UPPERCUT. You need to egg on an opponent to set things up, like a turtle. I curl up in my turtle defense to force Danny to come to me. A turtle only pokes his head out when he's attacking. You see Danny throwing the jab here, and I make him miss A. This creates an opportunity to step right in with my left foot between his feet, get inside and slide in close. I set my feet for position and land the uppercut B. Everything is positioning and footwork. I step to him, get underneath Danny with the uppercut and use my force coming forward with the punch C. He's mine now. What is he going to do?



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Marcos Maidana (right) wasn't a serious threat to Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s perfect record in their rematch.

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.

By **Michael Rosenthal**

We can (and will) debate the quality of Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s resume forevermore but we all have to admit one thing: 47 victories in 47 fights is damned impressive.

Mayweather went to 47-0 with his unanimous-decision victory over Marcos Maidana on Sept. 13, just another strong performance against a respected opponent in a remarkable career filled with them.

Maidana had his moments but ultimately had no adequate answer for Mayweather's hit-and-not-be-hit game plan, just as in the slightly more competitive first fight between them.

The victory leaves Mayweather only two shy of heavyweight great Rocky Marciano's iconic final record of 49-0, which includes victories over Hall of Famers Ezzard Charles, Jersey Joe Walcott and an aging Joe Louis.

The only other fighter near the rarefied air occupied by Marciano and Mayweather in terms of perfect records is Joe Calzaghe, who finished his career 46-0. However, Calzaghe, while very good, is clearly

ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

a notch below the big two.

After that, there's a drop-off. Samson Dutch Boy Gym (43-0)? Fought only second-tier opponents; Sven Ottke (34-0)? Gets little respect. Edwin Valero (27-0)? Who knows what might've been?

I would submit that longtime strawweight and junior flyweight champ Ricardo Lopez, at 56-0-1, is No. 3 among undefeated fighters in spite of his draw but the little guys never get the recognition they deserve.

The same with Roman Gonzalez, who at 40-0 at the age of 27 could pass the big two but will likely lose at some time.

The point is, like him or not, what Mayweather has done is mind-boggling. OK, he doesn't have the resume that fighters like Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran have. And he hasn't faced the opponent most have considered his biggest threat, Manny Pacquiao.

At the same time, 24 of his 47 victories – more than half – have come in world title fights. In other words, two dozen of his opponents ostensibly were top contenders. And Mayweather beat them all, easily in almost all cases.

Mayweather has two more fights remaining on his contract with Showtime, meaning he'll equal Marciano's mark next September if he remains undefeated. And you can bet he'll go after 50 the following spring.

If he gets there, if he reaches 50-0, even those who give him respect only grudgingly must stand up and applaud. He'll deserve that much.

POUND FOR POUND: No change.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: No change.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: No change.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: No change.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Mayweather Promotions-groomed Michigander J'Leon Love (No. 9 last month) was knocked out in three rounds by unrated Mexican journeyman Rogelio Medina. Love exited the ratings and Andre Dirrell moved in at No. 10, joining younger brother Anthony, who had entered the list two weeks earlier at No. 6.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No change.

WELTERWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: Adrien Broner (No. 7 last month) rose to No. 6 after a convincing unanimous decision over Maryland's Emmanuel Taylor (unrated) in Broner's second fight at junior welterweight. Zab Judah dropped from No. 6 to No. 7.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: Mickey Bey (unrated) defeated Miguel Vazquez (No. 1 last month) by a slightly controversial and thoroughly boring split decision to take the IBF title. The Cleveland native moved in at No. 4 while the long-reigning Mexican dropped to No. 5. As a result, Terence Crawford (No. 2 last month) rose to No. 1 and Dierry Jean (No. 10) fell off the list, with everyone in-between moving accordingly. WBA titleholder Richar Abril then ended a long layoff with a majority decision over Edis Tatli (unrated) and returned to the ratings at No. 4. That pushed Sharif Bogere off the list.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Mexican warhorse Orlando Salido returned at No. 10 on the strength of a Fight of the Year-candidate 11th-round stoppage of Terdsak Kokietgym (unrated). Argenis Mendez (No. 7 last month) was dropped for relatively weak performances in his last three fights.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: Northern Ireland's Carl Frampton (No. 1) seized the IBF title by a unanimous decision in a rematch with Spanish *sensacion* Kiko Martinez (No. 3 last month). Martinez switched places with No. 4-rated Englishman Scott Quigg, who then held No. 3 with a third-round TKO of Stephane Jamoye (unrated) the following week. Victor Terrazas (No. 5) was dumped for inactivity and, after an upward shift of Nos. 6-10, the bottom spot was taken by undefeated Mexican Andres Gutierrez.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No change.

FLYWEIGHTS: In the month's most exciting division, Nicaraguan pound-for-pounder Roman Gonzalez (No. 1 last month) usurped the RING and WBC thrones with a ninth-round stoppage of Akira Yaegashi. The Japanese battler dropped from the champion perch to No. 2 while Juan Francisco Estrada (No. 2 last month) ascended to the top contender position after a dominating 11th-round TKO of fellow Mexican Giovani Segura (No. 9 last month). Segura held his rank while Filipino Milan Melindo (No. 10 last month) jumped over him into the vacant No. 8 spot after Toshiyuki Igarashi announced a move to 115 pounds. This left room for Puerto Rican McWilliams Arroyo to enter at No. 10. Yaegashi triggered another shift by then dropping to 108 pounds while his countryman, Kazuto Ioka, moved up from junior flyweight to land at No. 10.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: Yaegashi took the No. 2 vacancy created by Ioka's departure. At the bottom, Mexico's newly-crowned IBF titleholder, Javier Mendoza, settled in at No. 10. His arrival was accommodated by removing Takuma Inoue (No. 9 last month), whose potential is great but his three pro fights weren't enough to trump the experience of Randy Petalcorin, who rose from No. 10 to No. 9.

STRAWWEIGHTS: No change.

WBO cruiserweight titleholder Marco Huck outpointed Mirko Larghetti on Aug. 30, his division record-tying 13th successful title defense.

THOMAS STARKE/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

THE FIGURES UNDER THE FIGHTERS' NAMES INDICATE: WEEKS IN THE RATINGS • COUNTRY • RECORD

HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

C WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
488 • Ukraine • 62-3-0 (52 KOs)

1. KUBRAT PULEV
154 • Bulgaria • 20-0-0 (11 KOs)

2. ALEXANDER POVETKIN
362 • Russia • 27-1-0 (19 KOs)

3. BERMANE STIVERNE
74 • Canada • 24-1-1 (21 KOs)

4. TYSON FURY
136 • U.K. • 22-0-0 (16 KOs)

5. BRYANT JENNINGS
27 • U.S. • 19-0-0 (10 KOs)

6. DEONTAY WILDER
44 • U.S. • 32-0-0 (32 KOs)

7. VYACHESLAV GLAZKOV
28 • Ukraine • 18-0-1 (11 KOs)

8. MIKE PEREZ
16 • Cuba • 20-1-1 (12 KOs)

9. CHRIS ARREOLA
55 • U.S. • 35-4-0 (31 KOs)

10. TOMASZ ADAMEK
232 • Poland • 49-3-0 (29 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

C YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ
156 • Cuba • 29-1-0 (14 KOs)

1. MARCO HUCK
133 • Germany • 38-2-1 (26 KOs)

2. KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK
485 • Poland • 49-2-1 (35 KOs)

3. DENIS LEBEDEV
243 • Russia • 25-2-0 (19 KOs)

4. OLA AFOLABI
290 • U.K. • 21-3-4 (10 KOs)

5. GRIGORY DROZD
51 • Russia • 38-1-0 (27 KOs)

6. FIRAT ARSLAN
99 • Germany • 34-8-2 (21 KOs)

7. ILUNGA MAKABU
63 • Congo • 17-1-0 (16 KOs)

8. THABISO MCHUNU
49 • S. Africa • 17-1-0 (11 KOs)

9. YOURI KALENGA
14 • Congo • 20-1-0 (13 KOs)

10. RAKHIM CHAKHKIEV
9 • Russia • 19-1-0 (14 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

C ADONIS STEVENSON
68 • Canada • 24-1-0 (20 KOs)

1. BERNARD HOPKINS
434 • U.S. • 55-6-2 (32 KOs)

2. SERGEY KOVALEV
88 • Russia • 25-0-1 (23 KOs)

3. JEAN PASCAL
63 • Canada • 29-2-1 (17 KOs)

4. JUERGEN BRAEHMER
117 • Germany • 44-2-0 (32 KOs)

5. CHAD DAWSON
435 • U.S. • 32-3-0 (18 KOs)

6. BEIBUT SHUMENOV
41 • Kaz. • 14-2-0 (9 KOs)

7. TAVORIS CLOUD
266 • U.S. • 24-2-0 (19 KOs)

8. ISAAC CHILEMBA
126 • Malawi • 23-2-2 (10 KOs)

9. ELEIDER ALVAREZ
28 • Colombia • 15-0-0 (8 KOs)

10. ANDRZEJ FONFARA
19 • Poland • 25-3-0 (15 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

C ANDRE WARD
281• U.S. • 27-0-0 (14 KOs)

1. CARL FROCH
434 • U.K. • 33-2-0 (24 KOs)

2. ARTHUR ABRAHAM
259 • Armenia • 40-4-0 (28 KOs)

3. ROBERT STIEGLITZ
267 • Russia • 47-4-0 (27 KOs)

4. GEORGE GROVES
146 • U.K. • 20-2-0 (15 KOs)

5. JAMES DEGALE
68 • U.K. • 19-1-0 (13 KOs)

6. ANTHONY DIRRELL
6 • U.S. • 27-0-1 (22 KOs)

7. THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN
178 • S. Africa • 22-0-2 (13 KOs)

8. SAKIO BIKA
391 • Cameroon • 32-6-3 (21 KOs)

9. GILBERTO RAMIREZ
10 • Mexico • 29-0-0 (23 KOs)

10. ANDRE DIRRELL
4 • U.S. • 22-1-0 (15 KOs)

RING RATINGS

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

C MIGUEL COTTO
16 • P.R. • 39-4-0 (32 KOs)

1. GENNADY GOLOVKIN
146 • Kaz. • 30-0-0 (27 KOs)

2. PETER QUILLIN
121 • U.S. • 31-0-0 (22 KOs)

3. SERGIO MARTINEZ
233 • Argentina • 51-3-2 (28 KOs)

4. DANIEL GEALE
276 • Australia • 30-3-0 (16 KOs)

5. SAM SOLIMAN
17 • Australia • 44-11-0 (18 KOs)

6. FELIX STURM
576 • Germany • 39-4-2 (18 KOs)

7. MATTHEW MACKLIN
261 • U.K. • 30-5-0 (20 KOs)

8. MARCO ANTONIO RUBIO
61 • Mexico • 59-6-1 (51 KOs)

9. MARTIN MURRAY
147 • U.K. • 28-1-1 (12 KOs)

10. HASSAN N'DAM N'JIKAM
36 • Cameroon • 30-1-0 (18 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

C FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
125 • U.S. • 47-0-0 (26 KOs)

1. CANELO ALVAREZ
202 • Mexico • 44-1-1 (31 KOs)

2. ERISLANDY LARA
169 • Cuba • 19-2-2 (12 KOs)

3. CARLOS MOLINA
169 • Mexico • 22-5-2 (6 KOs)

4. AUSTIN TROUT
121 • U.S. • 26-2-0 (14 KOs)

5. DEMETRIUS ANDRADE
76 • U.S. • 21-0-0 (14 KOs)

6. VANES MARTIROSYAN
251 • U.S. • 34-1-1 (21 KOs)

7. WILLIE NELSON
75 • U.S. • 23-1-1 (13 KOs)

8. JERMELL CHARLO
46 • U.S. • 24-0-0 (11 KOs)

9. ISHE SMITH
83 • U.S. • 26-6-0 (12 KOs)

10. JERMALL CHARLO
15 • U.S. • 19-0-0 (15 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

C FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
158 • U.S. • 47-0-0 (26 KOs)

1. MANNY PACQUIAO
255 • Phil. • 56-5-2 (38 KOs)

2. TIMOTHY BRADLEY
120 • U.S. • 31-1-0 (12 KOs)

3. JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ
94 • Mexico • 56-7-1 (40 KOs)

4. KELL BROOK
179 • U.K. • 33-0-0 (22 KOs)

5. MARCOS MAIDANA
41 • Argentina • 35-5-0 (31 KOs)

6. SHAWN PORTER
42 • U.S. • 24-1-1 (15 KOs)

7. KEITH THURMAN
81 • U.S. • 23-0-0 (21 KOs)

8. ROBERT GUERRERO
113 • U.S. • 32-2-1 (18 KOs)

9. AMIR KHAN
21 • U.K. • 29-3-0 (19 KOs)

10. DEVON ALEXANDER
14 • U.S. • 26-2-0 (14 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

C DANNY GARCIA
181 • U.S. • 29-0-0 (17 KOs)

1. LUCAS MATTHYSSE
181 • Argentina • 36-3-0 (34 KOs)

2. LAMONT PETERSON
83 • U.S. • 33-2-1 (17 KOs)

3. CHRIS ALGIERI
15 • U.S. • 20-0-0 (8 KOs)

4. RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV
95 • Russia • 23-2-0 (16 KOs)

5. MIKE ALVARADO
160 • U.S. • 34-3-0 (23 KOs)

6. ADRIEN BRONER
21 • U.S. • 29-1-0 (22 KOs)

7. ZAB JUDAH
187 • U.S. • 42-9-0 (29 KOs)

8. JESSIE VARGAS
24 • U.S. • 25-0-0 (9 KOs)

9. VIKTOR POSTOL
58 • Ukraine • 26-0-0 (11 KOs)

10. KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV
117 • Russia • 19-1-0 (9 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. TERENCE CRAWFORD
65 • U.S. • 24-0-0 (17 KOs)

2. RAYMUNDO BELTRAN
113 • Mexico • 29-6-1 (17 KOs)

3. OMAR FIGUEROA
37 • U.S. • 24-0-1 (18 KOs)

4. RICHAR ABRIL
1 • Cuba • 19-3-1 (8 KOs)

5. MICKEY BEY
2 • U.S. • 21-1-1 (10 KOs)

6. MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
216 • Mexico • 34-4-0 (13 KOs)

7. JUAN DIAZ
34 • U.S. • 40-4-0 (19 KOs)

8. DANIEL ESTRADA
92 • Mexico • 32-3-1 (24 KOs)

9. JORGE LINARES
29 • Venezuela • 37-3-0 (24 KOs)

10. KEVIN MITCHELL
168 • U.K. • 38-2-0 (28 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. TAKASHI UCHIYAMA
247 • Japan • 21-0-1 (17 KOs)

2. MIKEY GARCIA
46 • U.S. • 34-0-0 (28 KOs)

3. RANCES BARTHELEMY
38 • Cuba • 20-0-0 (12 KOs)

4. TAKASHI MIURA
77 • Japan • 27-2-2 (20 KOs)

5. JUAN CARLOS BURGOS
150 • Mexico • 30-2-2 (20 KOs)

6. ROMAN MARTINEZ
316 • P.R. • 27-2-2 (16 KOs)

7. DIEGO MAGDALENO
174 • U.S. • 26-1-0 (10 KOs)

8. SERGIO THOMPSON
29 • Mexico • 30-3-0 (26 KOs)

9. FRANCISCO VARGAS
11 • Mexico • 20-0-1 (14 KOs)

10. ORLANDO SALIDO
1 • Mexico • 42-12 -2 (29 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. JHONNY GONZALEZ
182 • Mexico • 56-8-0 (47 KOs)

2. ABNER MARES
73 • Mexico • 27-1-1 (14 KOs)

3. NICHOLAS WALTERS
94 • Jamaica • 24-0-0 (20 KOs)

4. NONITO DONAIRE
39 • Phil. • 33-2-0 (21 KOs)

5. EVGENY GRADOVICH
82 • Russia • 19-0-0 (9 KOs)

6. VASYL LOMACHENKO
21 • Ukraine • 2-1-0 (1 KO)*

7. SIMPIWE VETYEKA
42 • S. Africa • 26-3-0 (16 KOs)

8. RONNY RIOS
30 • U.S. • 23-0-0 (10 KOs)

9. LEE SELBY
28 • U.K. • 19-1-0 (7 KOs)

10. MARVIN SONSONA
12 • Phil. • 19-1-1 (15 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

C GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
203 • Cuba • 14-0-0 (9 KOs)

1. CARL FRAMPTON
105 • U.K. • 19-0-0 (13 KOs)

2. LEO SANTA CRUZ
73 • U.S. • 28-0-1 (16 KOs)

3. SCOTT QUIGG
96 • U.K. • 29-0-2 (22 KOs)

4. KIKO MARTINEZ
58 • Spain • 31-5-0 (23 KOs)

5. CRISTIAN MIJARES
61 • Mexico • 50-8-2 (25 KOs)

6. JEFFREY MATHEBULA
131 • S. Africa • 27-5-2 (14 KOs)

7. GENESIS SERVANIA
28 • Phil. • 25-0-0 (11 KOs)

8. CHRIS AVALOS
17 • U.S. • 24-2-0 (18 KOs)

9. KID GALAHAD
6 • U.K. • 18-0-0 (9 KOs)

10. ANDRES GUTIERREZ
1 • Mexico • 30-0-1 (22 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings Chairman Chuck Giampa considers input from the Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world but has final say on all changes. That applies to both the pound-for-pound and divisional ratings.

Records provided by boxrec.com

**** The record shown for Vasyl Lomachenko is the one listed by boxrec.com. However, Lomachenko was paid to participate in the World Series of Boxing six times during 2013, with a record of 6-0.***

RING RATINGS

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. **ANSELMO MORENO**
   339 • Panama • 35-2-1 (12 KOs)
2. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
   151 • Japan • 21-0-2 (16 KOs)
3. **KOKI KAMEDA**
   197 • Japan • 32-1-0 (17 KOs)
4. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
   192 • Phil. • 35-3-3 (20 KOs)
5. **HUGO RUIZ**
   127 • Mexico • 34-2-0 (30 KOs)
6. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
   79 • Ghana • 29-5-0 (22 KOs)
7. **JAMIE MCDONNELL**
   73 • U.K. • 24-2-1 (11 KOs)
8. **TOMOKI KAMEDA**
   60 • Japan • 30-0-0 (19 KOs)
9. **JULIO CEJA**
   105 • Mexico • 27-1-0 (25 KOs)
10. **RYOSUKE IWASA**
    26 • Japan • 18-1-0 (11 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
   229 • Argentina • 43-1-2 (23 KOs)
2. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
   124 • Mexico • 30-0-1 (24 KOs)
3. **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI**
   73 • Thailand • 28-4-1 (25 KOs)
4. **ZOLANI TETE**
   43 • S. Africa • 19-3-0 (16 KOs)
5. **JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ JR.**
   137 • Mexico • 17-2-1 (9 KOs)
6. **ARTHUR VILLANUEVA**
   75 • Phil. • 26-0-0 (14 KOs)
7. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
   104 • Thailand • 55-1-1 (21 KOs)
8. **FELIPE ORUCUTA**
   70 • Mexico • 29-3-0 (24 KOs)
9. **MCJOE ARROYO**
   15 • P.R. • 15-0-0 (8 KOs)
10. **KOHEI KONO**
    21 • Japan • 30-8-0 (13 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C ROMAN GONZALEZ
46 • Nicaragua • 40-0-0 (34 KOs)

1. **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA**
   77 • Mexico • 27-2-0 (20 KOs)
2. **BRIAN VILORIA**
   168 • U.S. • 34-4-0 (20 KOs)
3. **EDGAR SOSA**
   124 • Mexico • 50-8-0 (30 KOs)
4. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
   156 • Argentina • 34-1-0 (18 KOs)
5. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
   28 • S. Africa • 30-2-0 (20 KOs)
6. **AMNAT RUENROENG**
   20 • Thailand • 14-0-0 (5 KOs)
7. **MILAN MELINDO**
   15 • Phil. • 31-1-0 (12 KOs)
8. **GIOVANI SEGURA**
   47 • Mexico • 32-4-1 (28 KOs)
9. **MCWILLIAMS ARROYO**
   3 • P.R. • 15-2-0 (13 KOs)
10. **KAZUTO IOKA**
    1 • Japan • 15-1-0 (9 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C DONNIE NIETES
155 • Phil. • 33-1-4 (19 KOs)

1. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
   137 • Phil. • 20-2-0 (12 KOs)
2. **AKIRA YAEGASHI**
   1 • Japan • 20-4-0 (10 KOs)
3. **MOISES FUENTES**
   82 • Mexico • 19-2-1 (10 KOs)
4. **NAOYA INOUE**
   57 • Japan • 7-0-0 (6 KOs)
5. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
   179 • Mexico • 29-3-1 (18 KOs)
6. **PEDRO GUEVARA**
   78 • Mexico • 22-1-1 (14 KOs)
7. **FELIX ALVARADO**
   80 • Nicaragua • 18-2-0 (15 KOs)
8. **ALBERTO ROSSEL**
   74 • Peru • 32-8-0 (13 KOs)
9. **RANDY PETALCORIN**
   20 • Phil. • 22-1-1 (17 KOs)
10. **JAVIER MENDOZA**
    1 • Mexico • 22-2-1 (18 KOs)

STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

C (VACANT)

1. **HEKKIE BUDLER**
   105 • S. Africa • 26-1-0 (9 KOs)
2. **FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ**
   27 • Mexico • 16-2-0 (11 KOs)
3. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
   78 • Japan • 27-7-0 (10 KOs)
4. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
   171 • Thailand • 35-0-0 (11 KOs)
5. **CARLOS BUITRAGO**
   102 • Nicaragua • 27-0-1 (16 KOs)
6. **OSVALDO NOVOA**
   33 • Mexico • 14-4-1 (9 KOs)
7. **MERLITO SABILLO**
   63 • Phil. • 23-1-1 (12 KOs)
8. **RYUJI HARA**
   56 • Japan • 18-0-0 (10 KOs)
9. **JESUS SILVESTRE**
   62 • Mexico • 29-5-0 (21 KOs)
10. **CARLOS VELARDE**
    6 • Mexico • 26-3-1 (14 KOs)

POUND FOR POUND

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
   158 • U.S. • 47-0-0 (26 KOs)
2. **ANDRE WARD**
   181 • U.S. • 27-0-0 (14 KOs)
3. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
   216 • Ukraine • 62-3-0 (52 KOs)
4. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
   565 • Phil. • 56-5-2 (38 KOs)
5. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
   211 • U.S. • 31-1-0 (12 KOs)
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   394 • Mexico • 56-7-1 (40 KOs)
7. **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
   57 • Cuba • 14-0-0 (9 KOs)
8. **CARL FROCH**
   41 • U.K. • 33-2-0 (24 KOs)
9. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
   16 • Nicaragua • 40-0-0 (34 KOs)
10. **CANELO ALVAREZ**
    73 • Mexico • 44-1-1 (31 KOs)

THE RING POLICY ON RATED BOXERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

THE RING will remove from its ratings any rated boxer — including a champion — if such boxer at some point undergoes drug testing (Olympic-style or otherwise) and that boxer tests positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

In the event that a boxer has undergone testing in which the boxer provides two samples ("A" and "B") and the boxer's "A" and subsequent "B" samples test positive for a performance-enhancing drug or if his "A" sample tests positive and he waives his right to have the "B" sample tested then the boxer shall immediately be removed from the ratings.

A boxer whose "A" sample tested positive and is awaiting the results of his "B" sample will not be allowed to fight for a championship or rise in the ratings.

A boxer who is removed because of a positive test will have the opportunity to earn his way back into the ratings after any suspension period is completed.

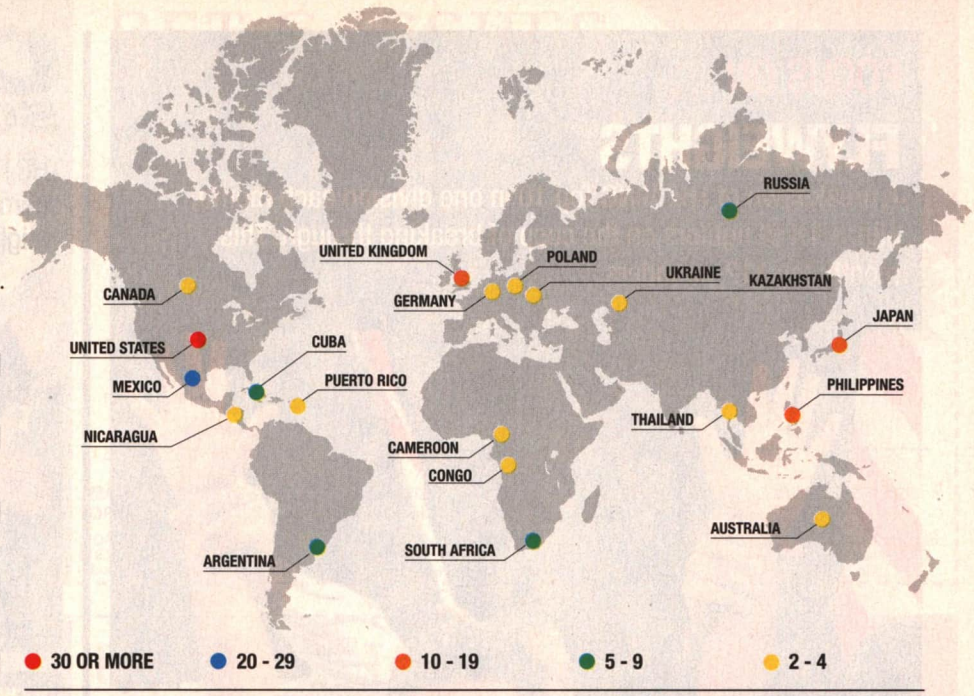
A boxer who is dropped also may be reinstated if the testing agency subsequently reverses its decision or a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the test result was invalid.

RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

UNITED STATES	41*	▲1
MEXICO	32	▲2
UNITED KINGDOM	15	
JAPAN	12	▼2
PHILIPPINES	11	
RUSSIA	9	
SOUTH AFRICA	7	
CUBA	6	▲1
ARGENTINA	5	
GERMANY	4	
PUERTO RICO	4	▲1
THAILAND	4	
UKRAINE	4	▼1
CANADA	3	▼1
NICARAGUA	3	
POLAND	3	
AUSTRALIA	2	
CAMEROON	2	
CONGO	2	
KAZAKHSTAN	2	
ARMENIA	1	
BULGARIA	1	
COLOMBIA	1	
GHANA	1	
JAMAICA	1	
MALAWI	1	
PANAMA	1	
PERU	1	
SPAIN	1	
VENEZUELA	1	

Countries out (from last month): *Dominican Republic (Argenis Mendez, junior lightweight); Uganda (Sharif Bogere, lightweight).*
Countries in: *None.*

** Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight and welterweight).*



U.K. VS. EUROPE

The United Kingdom dominates European boxing, with 15 fighters rated by THE RING. That's third behind the U.S. and Mexico. The Brits can't match the rest of its Euro neighbors combined – the talent pool is too deep – but they hold their own, particularly when you consider that we're including Russia (nine boxers) and Kazakhstan (two) even though parts of those nations are in Asia. Here's how it breaks down.

DIVISION	U.K.	EUROPE
HEAVYWEIGHTS	1	5
CRUISERWEIGHTS	1	6
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS	0	4
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	3	1
MIDDLEWEIGHTS	2	2
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS	0	0
WELTERWEIGHTS	2	0
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS	0	3
LIGHTWEIGHTS	1	0
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS	0	0
FEATHERWEIGHTS	1	2
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS	3	1
BANTAMWEIGHTS	1	0
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS	0	0
FLYWEIGHTS	0	0
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS	0	0
STRAWWEIGHTS	0	0
TOTAL	15	24

Note: The breakdown by country – Russia (9), Germany (4), Ukraine (4), Poland (3), Kazakhstan (2), Bulgaria (1) and Spain (1).

LONGEST REIGNS

THE RING currently has 11 champions in the 17 weight divisions. New flyweight king Roman Gonzalez (right) is the latest to join the exclusive club. Who is its longest-reigning member? Here's the list (including the date on which they won the belt).

1. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO,** HEAVYWEIGHT: JUNE 20, 2009
2. **ANDRE WARD,** SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT: DEC. 17, 2011
3. **YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ,** CRUISERWEIGHT: FEB. 4, 2012
4. **DANNY GARCIA,** JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT: JULY 14, 2012
5. **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX,** JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT: APRIL 13, 2013
6. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.,** WELTERWEIGHT: MAY 4, 2013
7. **ADONIS STEVENSON,** LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: JUNE 8, 2013
8. **MAYWEATHER,** JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT: SEPT. 14, 2013
9. **DONNIE NIETES,** JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT: MAY 10, 2014
10. **MIGUEL COTTO,** MIDDLEWEIGHT: JUNE 7, 2014
11. **ROMAN GONZALEZ,** FLYWEIGHT: SEPT. 5, 2014

FOCUS ON . . .

FLYWEIGHTS

A breakdown of THE RING Top 10 in one division each month, plus a list of fighters on the cusp of breaking through. This month: the 112-pounders.

Brian Viloria has been the top U.S. little man for years.

MOST WEEKS RATED: BRIAN VILORIA **168**

FEWEST WEEKS RATED: KAZUTO IOKA **1**

OLDEST: EDGAR SOSA **35**

YOUNGEST: JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA **24**

MOST FIGHTS: SOSA **52**

FEWEST FIGHTS: AMNAT RUENROENG **14**

HIGHEST WINNING PERCENTAGE: ROMAN GONZALEZ, RUENROENG **100 PERCENT**

LOWEST WINNING PERCENTAGE: AKIRA YAEGASHI **83.3 PERCENT**

MOST KOS: GONZALEZ **34**

FEWEST KOS: RUENROENG **5**

LONGEST CURRENT WINNING STREAK: GONZALEZ **40 FIGHTS**

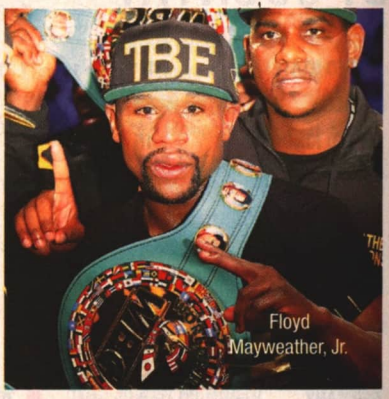
ON THE POUND-FOR-POUND LIST: GONZALEZ **(NO. 9)**

TITLEHOLDERS IN THE TOP 10: ESTRADA (WBA, WBO), GONZALEZ (RING, WBC), RUENROENG (IBF)

ON THE CUSP (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER): ROCKY FUENTES, KWANPICHIT ONESONGCHAIGYM, NAWAPHON POR CHOKCHAI, ROBERTO SOSA,YODMONGKOL VOR SAENGTHEP

OLD SCHOOL 8

THE RING staff members' current champions in the original eight weight classes.



Floyd Mayweather, Jr.

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL RING MAGAZINE EDITOR

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LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: GENNADY GOLOVKIN
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIKEY GARCIA
FEATHERWEIGHT: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

DOUG FISCHER RINGTV.COM EDITOR

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LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: GENNADY GOLOVKIN
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: TERENCE CRAWFORD
FEATHERWEIGHT: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
BANTAMWEIGHT: SHINSUKE YAMANAKA
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LEM SATTERFIELD RINGTV.COM STAFF WRITER

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LIGHTWEIGHT: TERENCE CRAWFORD
FEATHERWEIGHT: GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

Note: *This is how the weights break down: Heavyweight includes cruiserweight, light heavyweight includes super middleweight, all divisions middleweight through flyweight include the "junior" versions, and flyweight also includes strawweight.*

MAYWEATHER AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES; VILORIA: JAY DIRECTO

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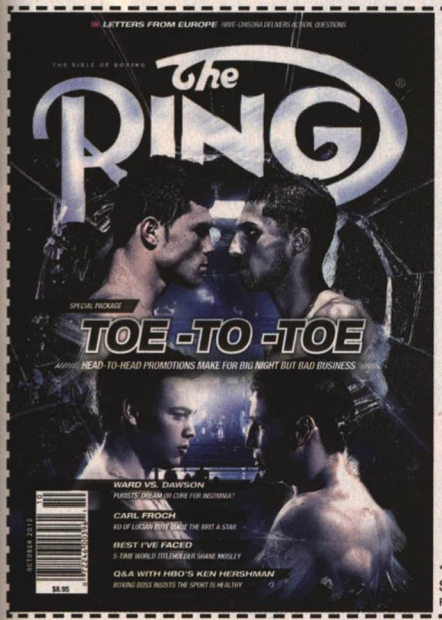

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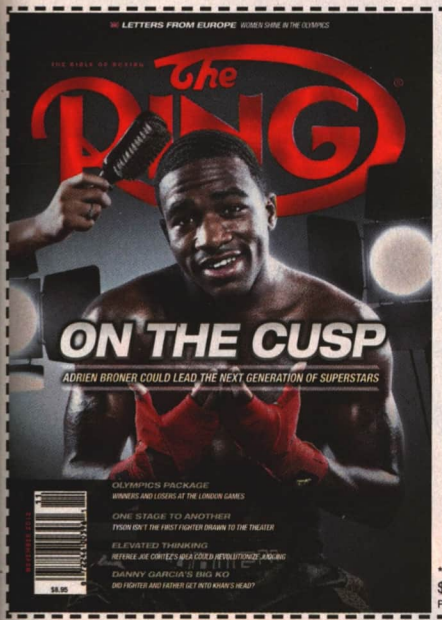

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NEW CHALLENGES, NEW DANGERS

IS **SERGEY KOVALEV** THE ONE WHO WILL MAKE **BERNARD HOPKINS** ACT HIS AGE?

By **Norm Frauenheim**

Bernard Hopkins (left) shows no fear even as he approaches 50.

There's a temptation to think that Bernard Hopkins found what Juan Ponce de Leon never did. Hopkins isn't exactly forever young. Those silver whiskers aren't cosmetic. They're a sure sign that even he gets old. Yet he approaches a milestone birthday as few ever have. He'll be 50, half a century old, in a few months.

If Ponce de Leon were around today, he wouldn't see a gray-bearded Alien in Hopkins. Instead, history's legendary conquistador might look into the fighter's aging face and see that Fountain of Youth he envisioned five centuries ago.

Time that erodes reflexes, durability and competitiveness only seems to enrich Hopkins. He was a dangerous young man. Now an elder, he's wise and perhaps more dangerous than ever because he figured out that Ponce de Leon's proverbial fountain isn't a mystery. It's a lifestyle, a disciplined equation that extends youth and keeps age at bay if you're always getting smarter. Yet there's caution, if not skepticism. It's been there for most of the last decade in Hopkins' unprecedented career.

He fights on despite all of the familiar reasons not to. A husband and father, he's made more money than he'll ever need. He's a lock for the Hall of Fame. By any conventional standard, he's got it all, done it all, without serious injury. Bank account and brains are healthy yet he wants more in a pursuit as stubborn as it is fearless.

That means new challenges. New dangers, too. It's the danger that multiplies and, at some point, creates the inevitable force that can't be overcome by an accumulation of smarts. Time hasn't stopped Hopkins. But it will produce somebody who will. Is Sergey Kovalev that inevitable somebody?

Hopkins has been confronted by

that question so often that it's almost redundant. But we have to ask. He forces us to by pushing his career into places no one has dared go. If he has a forerunner, it's Archie Moore. Hopkins has studied him for the secrets that allowed Moore to fight an astonishing 219 times. History's longest-reigning light heavyweight champ, Moore fought until he was 46. He lived to be 81. He once compared himself to a drunk at the bar who wants one more for the road. Is Kovalev Hopkins' last call?

"Don't worry about when or how I'm going to leave or break down," Hopkins said at a September press conference to formally announce the HBO-televised bout on Nov. 8 at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. "After I whip Kovalev systematically, I don't want to be on nobody's pound-for-pound list because that would make me human. You guys are all humans. I understand you. But you don't understand me."

Maybe not. But some fear for him.

George Foreman called into TMZ Sports after Hopkins' split-decision victory over Beibut Shumenov in his last fight on April 19 and said it was time for Hopkins to retire. It was a Foreman record that Hopkins eclipsed when, at 46, he became the oldest to ever win a major title (the WBC light heavyweight belt) with a decision over Jean Pascal in May 2011. Foreman was 45 when, in 1995, he stopped Michael Moorer for a heavyweight title in the climax to his fabled comeback.

"I think he was saying it in a caring way," said Hopkins, who has broken the record three times since the Pascal fight and after a loss to Chad Dawson in a rematch of their no-contest fight. "But you watch the fight and say to yourself: 'What the hell is George talking about?'"

One scorecard somehow favored Shumenov by a single point (114-113) but the other two read 116-111 for Hopkins after a bout that also saw him score a knockdown in the 11th round. Shumenov had a competent, yet awkward skill set. He was interesting but not intimidating.

Compare that to Kovalev. Actually, there is no comparison. It starts with intimidation. In 2011, Kovalev stopped Roman Simakov in the seventh round of a bout in Russia; Simakov died three days later. The ring death is the jagged edge to the

RICH GRAESSLE/MAIN EVENTS

'AFTER I WHIP KOVALEV SYSTEMATICALLY, I DON'T WANT TO BE ON NOBODY'S POUND-FOR-POUND LIST BECAUSE THAT WOULD MAKE ME HUMAN. YOU GUYS ARE ALL HUMANS. I UNDERSTAND YOU. BUT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ME.'
– BERNARD HOPKINS

Trainer Naazim Richardson said challenges are what keep Hopkins going.

face of why Kovalev is so feared. His record provides further context. The unbeaten ledger, 25 victories and one draw, includes only two fights that went to the scorecards, a six-round, unanimous decision and an eight-round split decision, both in 2010. None of Kovalev's other opponents has gotten past the seventh.

"I respect Kovalev," Hopkins trainer Naazim Richardson said. "He's a monster. He's real, as real as it gets."

It's the challenge in the monster that keeps Hopkins always moving forward, never out of harm's way and into retirement's safe harbor, says Richardson.

"I knew we were going to wind up fighting Kovalev," Richardson said. "I knew it when I told him that Kovalev had killed a guy in the ring. I knew it when I figured out that the public was afraid of the guy. It seemed like the public got more afraid of Sergey Kovalev than it had been of Adonis Stevenson. When that happened, I just knew we'd be fighting Kovalev.

"It's just how [Hopkins] is. He runs to the most dangerous dude. It just does it for him. Maybe that's why he's still here after all these years."

By now, Hopkins' time in prison for 56 months between 1984 and 1989 for a variety of street crimes is a well-chronicled part of his story. It bears repeating here only because Hopkins won't let himself forget. What he left behind when he walked out of Pennsylvania's Graterford State Penitentiary, when Kovalev was 6 years old, is a lot more monstrous than anything that faces him. A return to prison, he has said, would have been a trip to the graveyard. Against Kovalev, he has a chance at further history, which offers its own kind of immortality.

These days, he has his old mug shot stored in his mobile phone. It's a reference point. He likes to show it to reporters.

"I look older in this photo than I do now, don't I?" he'll say.

It's a question that doesn't really need an answer. It speaks of self-awareness, an innate understanding that Hopkins has of himself and, in turn, others. In learning how to figure out himself, he figured out how to get a read on the people around him, including his rivals. Hopkins says he has read "The Art of War," the ancient book by Chinese warrior-philosopher Sun Tzu.

The art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting ...

If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result.

– Sun Tzu

Those words serve as a pretty good guide to the last decade in Hopkins' career. He has been as adept at subduing an opponent as anybody before the opening bell. No trick goes unused. In Kovalev's case, there already are hints at a campaign to turn the Russian's strengths into a weakness.

The initial news conferences included a potential blueprint, which was cleverly introduced by Richardson. He kept calling Kovalev a monster. Yet Richardson also wondered why Kovalev didn't act like one. In almost every interview since the fight was announced, Kovalev has declined to predict a knockout. After his second-round stoppage of Blake Caparello on Aug. 2, he stood alongside Hopkins and told HBO that he wouldn't pursue a KO.

"I'm not going in to knock him out," Kovalev said. "I'm going into the ring to box. If I do knock him out, good. But that's not my goal."

In subsequent news conferences, Kovalev has only said he would "kick his ass." A knockout is not part of the promise, even though it is part of his identity.

If there's a sign of inconsistency there, Richardson might be trying to attack it with some self-doubt that could make a difference on Nov. 8.

"What you talking about?" he said in New York. "Talking about not knocking him out? He's a puncher, man. If you a beast, be a beast. If you got a dog, he's gonna bark. My dog is gonna bark. That's what he does."

Left unsaid is what Kovalev hasn't done. He hasn't gone 12 rounds. Other than a 2011 fight in Los Angeles with Dawson that was ruled a no-contest after Hopkins suffered a shoulder injury in the second round, Hopkins has gone 12 rounds in each of his 15 fights since turning 40 on Jan. 15, 2005. Since that birthday, he is 10-4-1, all by decision.

There are losses to Dawson, Jermain Taylor twice and Joe Calzaghe. There are victories over Howard Eastman, Antonio Tarver, Winky Wright, Kelly Pavlik, Enrique Ornelas, Roy Jones Jr., Pascal, Tavoris Cloud, Karo Murat and Shumenov. There's a draw with Pascal. In each, Hopkins went into deep waters where an edge is often gained with experience, guile or smarts. Kovalev has never been there. The intriguing question is whether the Russian possesses more than power and has a dimension we've yet to see.

A fundamental aspect of Hopkins' longevity rests in his ability to take away what an opponent does best. Most notable, perhaps, is the way he negated Pavlik's powerful right hand. He clinched, fought on the inside and never allowed Pavlik to step out and throw that big right from a distance that gave him some leverage. Pavlik, now retired, was never the same. Without the right that was the source of his confidence if not his identity, Pavlik was lost, especially in the late rounds.

Mystify, mislead and surprise.
– Sun Tzu

It's safe to say Hopkins will attempt to do all three in his bid to upset another lion in his prime.

"Bernard's style is not confusing, but it can frustrate you, because you're not going to get your way against him," says promotional partner Oscar De La Hoya, who is the last fighter to get stopped by

'BERNARD'S STYLE IS NOT CONFUSING BUT IT CAN FRUSTRATE YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET YOUR WAY AGAINST HIM.'
– OSCAR DE LA HOYA

NEVER COUNT HIM OUT

Bernard Hopkins has made fools out of those predicting his demise many times. Here are five important fights in which Hopkins was at least a slight underdog but emerged victorious.

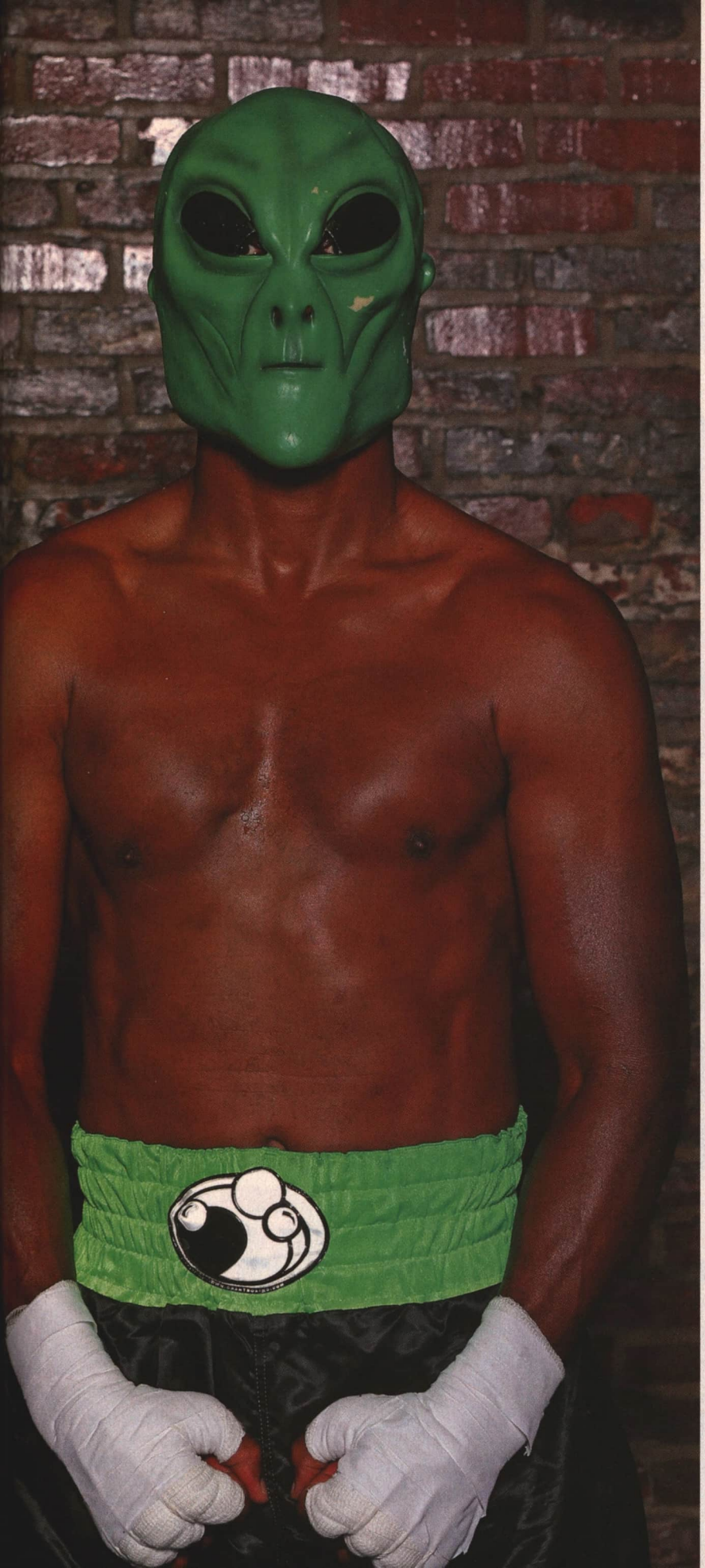
FELIX TRINIDAD
Sept. 29, 2001, New York City
Result: TKO 12
Trinidad was undefeated and coming off devastating knockouts of Fernando Vargas (at 154 pounds) and William Joppy (at 160) when he met the 36-year-old middleweight champ, who was making his 14th defense. Trinidad was outclassed and ultimately stopped by a big right hand.

ANTONIO TARVER
June 10, 2006, Atlantic City
Result: UD 12
Hopkins was coming off back-to-back losses to Jermain Taylor, which cost him his middleweight championship and a lot of respect. His response? He jumped two weight classes and beat one of the best light heavyweights of the time at the age of 41.

WINKY WRIGHT
July 21, 2007, Las Vegas
Result: UD 12
Wright, a boxing wizard who is almost seven years younger than Hopkins, hadn't lost in seven-plus years when he agreed to move up from middleweight to face Hopkins at a catchweight of 170 pounds. Bad idea. Hopkins won a one-sided decision.

KELLY PAVLIK
Oct. 18, 2008, Atlantic City
Result: UD 12
Pavlik was hot at the time, having twice beaten Taylor to become middleweight champ. A step up to face an old man at a 170-pound catchweight seemed to be a minimal challenge. It turned into a nightmare, as Hopkins boxed the youngster silly.

JEAN PASCAL
May 21, 2011, Montreal
Result: UD 12
Hopkins had to settle for a draw in his first meeting with THE RING and WBC titleholder five months earlier before Pascal's home-country fans in Quebec City. Hopkins, 46, won the rematch by a close decision to supplant George Foreman (45) as the oldest to win a title.



Hopkins became "The Alien" because no earthling nearing 50 should have his ability.

Hopkins, in 2004, by a ninth-round TKO. "I would know. I'm a perfect example. Although I was doing well, I didn't get my way in those last rounds.

"Bernard is a master at what he does. It's not just inside the ring, it's outside the ring. Psychologically, I think Bernard is already up 2-0, and they haven't even thrown a punch yet."

You have to believe in yourself.
– Sun Tzu

It's another way of saying that you have to make the other guy wonder about himself. If Hopkins can take away Kovalev's right in the early going, maybe doubt will begin to creep in and erode some critical confidence.

"It's not just taking away the right hand," Richardson said. "It's not that simple. Will he hurt [Kovalev] the way he has hurt others? Maybe not. But Kovalev is in trouble. He will be dissected and pulled apart. Like I said, I really respect him. He is a monster. But he's more of a monster to other young guys. Not the old dude.

"What's he going to think when, round after round, he can't get to Bernard? What's his corner going to be saying? Punch harder? He'll be thinking: 'Man, I'm punching as hard as I can. What do I do now?'"

They are just a few of the questions that Hopkins hopes Kovalev asks himself before the opening bell and throughout a fight that will either end a legend or further define one that lives on.

He who knows when he can fight and when he cannot will be victorious – Sun Tzu.

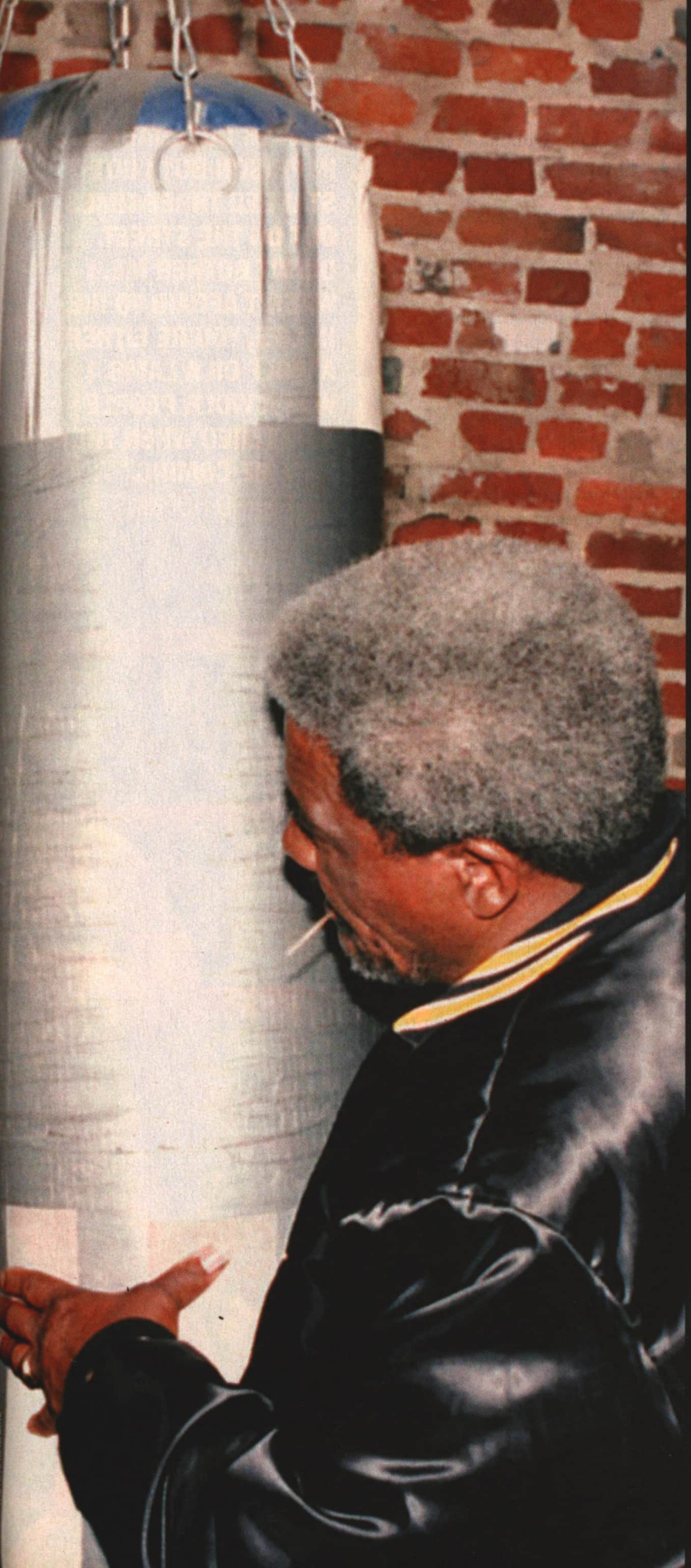
On Nov. 8, Hopkins will know.

KILLING TIME

BERNARD HOPKINS BOXED IN PRISON TO MAKE TIME PASS. IN THE END, HE DEFIED TIME.

By **Bernard Fernandez**

A young Bernard Hopkins (working here with trainer Bouie Fisher) discovered the value of discipline in prison.



"Put your hand on a hot stove for a minute and it seems like an hour," Albert Einstein said. "Sit with a pretty girl for an hour and it seems like a minute. That's relativity."

One of the greatest minds of his or any other era was never a guest of the Pennsylvania penal system but his theory of relativity, represented by the famous equation $E=mc^2$, is easily understood by at least one former inmate who had his hand on that figurative stove during his 56 months of imprisonment.

Bernard Hopkins, a former street tough, was sent to the Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution at Graterford on a strong-arm robbery conviction when he was just 17 and remained there until he was 23. He tried to burn as much time as fast as he possibly could behind those high walls. That included his introduction to boxing and time spent with an unlikely role model, a convicted murderer and former boxer named Michael "Smokey" Wilson.

That's where and with whom Hopkins' legend began to take root.

"When you came up from nothing it's not easy to have the patience or discipline to change your life," Hopkins said. "Boxing had to work for Bernard Hopkins because, really, what other choice did I have? Prison taught me to maximize every second of every day. I'm always conscious of the clock because, when you're incarcerated, you want to burn time. I couldn't have gotten that discipline on the street, not like I got it now.

"Being locked up in a cell is no fun but I survived it. Maybe I wouldn't survive it again. That's why I made a vow to myself never to go back inside. I dreamed about a lot of things back then. But for guys like me, dreams usually don't come true. Now that I'm living the dream, I'm never going to allow myself to get too comfortable or to

forget the past."

Today, three decades later, he is free to chase still another dream and more boxing history to embellish an already breathtaking legacy of accomplishment. Hopkins, who will be 50 on Jan. 15, is hoping to give himself still another stay of professional execution when he faces Sergey Kovalev on Nov. 8 in Atlantic City. The Russian, widely considered to be the most dangerous man in the 175-pound weight class, no doubt has designs on making some history of his own by becoming the first man ever to knock out the ageless wonder from Philadelphia.

Can Hopkins find a way to reach back in time again and make not only the clock stand still but the calendar as well? And if he somehow crafts still another addition to his list of semi-miraculous victories, how long can he expect to keep defying the natural laws of diminishing returns?

"I'm fortunate in that I'm not damaged goods," said Hopkins, who has never been cut during his 26 years as a pro and has been floored only four times. "Look, people were calling me old when I fought Tito (Trinidad, whom he stopped in 12 rounds in a career-defining performance on Sept. 29, 2001). I'm still here, but I know I ain't the same as I was at 35 or even 45. Nobody stays on top forever. I look at tapes of my old fights and see how many more punches I was throwing then. I even had hair. I'd be in total denial if I tried to say I'm the same fighter I used to be. But what's left is still plenty good."

Among Hopkins' proudest possessions – as much as his collection of bejeweled championship belts, if not more so – is a framed certificate from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections congratulating him with successfully completing all of his parole requirements. For nine years, Hopkins avoided any semblance of trouble except those inside the ring, avoiding even so much as a parking ticket.

But not adding his name to the long list of recidivists whose freedom was shortlived doesn't mean B-Hop has forgotten the lessons he learned on Cell Block D as prisoner Y4145. There is some good that can be wrung from even the harshest of circumstances, if only an individual is strong enough to recognize the traps into which so many of those who run afoul of the law keep falling. Hopkins swore he'd never go back to Graterford again, other than in a voluntary capacity, and he hasn't. But whenever he needs to dredge up a memory from those days that might serve him against a gloved opponent, he can draw from that well, too.

"Where do people think I got that toughness, that discipline?" he said. "It's so obvious. I'm not perpetrating a fraud. That's who I was when I was ignorant. I never got stabbed in prison, but I got stabbed three times out on the street. Didn't bother me. I wasn't afraid to die. In life, you're either a wolf or a lamb. I was a wolf. People scattered when they saw me coming."

The teenage wolf had been in and out of the juvenile system often enough to have an idea of what he could expect when he was sent to a place where hardcore criminals were burning time, some entire lifetimes. To hear Hopkins tell it, one of the first things he did upon entering this new and more harrowing world was to seek out one of the most frightening inmates in the yard and to knock out some of his teeth. It was his way of announcing to the population that, his tender age notwithstanding, he was nobody's lamb.

"In this place, you go after the biggest dude to earn your respect," Wilson said several years ago, "this place" meaning Graterford. He is still there. "Kick his ass and everything else just falls into place. People see you take on and take down someone

'I NEVER GOT STABBED IN PRISON BUT I GOT STABBED THREE TIMES OUT ON THE STREET. DIDN'T BOTHER ME. I WASN'T AFRAID TO DIE. IN LIFE, YOU'RE EITHER A WOLF OR A LAMB. I WAS A WOLF. PEOPLE SCATTERED WHEN THEY SAW ME COMING.'
– BERNARD HOPKINS

Some people thought Hopkins was old when he fought Felix Trinidad in 2001. You see the result.

like that, nobody is going to mess with you."

But Wilson – a three-time middleweight champion within the Pennsylvania penal system – saw something else in Hopkins, something of value that could someday prove to be the angry young man's ticket to a better life on the outside.

"Bernard was another young kid who could go one way or the other," said Wilson, who knew only too well that in such cases the pendulum frequently swings in the wrong direction. "His life was the same as those of a lot of kids growing up in the inner city. Many are going to get in trouble and keep on getting in trouble. Some, thankfully, won't.

"I'm just glad Bernard didn't kill no one. I'm glad he was able to get out of here. To me, he's the epitome of what rehabilitation is, or is supposed to be. He never came back. He showed what, given the opportunity, an individual – any individual – can do."

It was almost an inevitability that Hopkins, who had an idea of becoming a boxer upon his release from prison, and Wilson would gravitate toward each other. Years before Hopkins heard the sound of that gate slamming shut behind him, his now-deceased uncle, Art "Moose" McCloud, who posted an 11-8 record as a pro, had swapped punches in the ring with Wilson. But it was not an inevitability that Wilson and Hopkins would form a bond, one of mutual respect and appreciation, that has lasted as long as it has.

'LOOK, I'M NOT ADVOCATING PRISON. PRISON IS A BAD, BAD PLACE. BUT THE DISCIPLINE THAT I HAVE TODAY, THAT IS WHERE IT WAS DEVELOPED.'
– BERNARD HOPKINS

"Artie could have been good, but the street got him," Hopkins said. "Anyway, once Smokey found out I was Artie's nephew, we sort of got attached. He started training me. We had tournaments against other prisons. Two times a year, we had box-offs. I was middleweight champion for 4½ years, the Pennsylvania equivalent of (former light heavyweight contender) James Scott in Rahway (a New Jersey prison).

"Smokey was like my Gandhi. If I had run into somebody else in prison, with a different set of values, the world might have never known one of the greatest boxing talents ever to come out of Philadelphia. Me and Smokey are not biologically related, but we might as well be. When I'm fighting in that ring, I'm fighting for some souls that can help others and for some lost souls that don't want to help others. But they're all God's children, you know?

"Everybody inside those walls don't make it. Yeah, I know what Smokey is in for. He never has tried to hide the fact of what he did. His story is kind of like Rubin 'Hurricane' Carter's, except that Smokey isn't saying that he's innocent.

"Regardless, to me, Smokey is more of an asset to society than a threat. Look, I'm not advocating prison. Prison is a bad, bad place. But the discipline that I have today, that is where it was developed. Smokey showed me that just because you start out doing wrong, it don't have to be like that forever."

Hopkins understands that some fight fans, those who have never done time, are put off when he brings up the misdeeds that landed him in the joint. But learning experiences are where you find them, and some of the hardest lessons must be learned in the hardest of places.

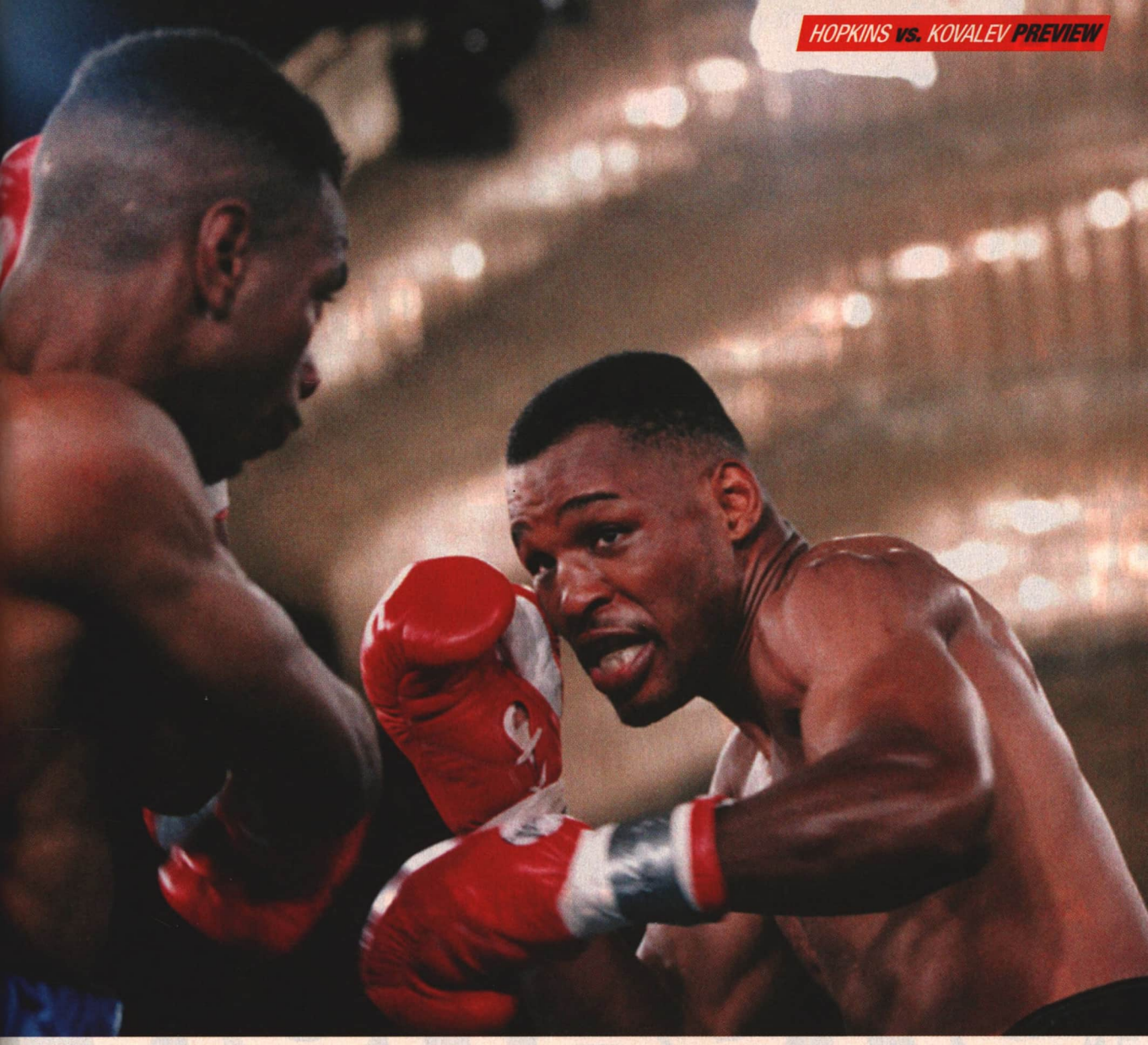
"If I didn't go to the gym at 1 o'clock, guess who came looking for me? Smokey Wilson," Hopkins said. "And let me tell you, there were days when I didn't feel like training. I know that sounds hard to believe now, but where do you think I got that from? Smokey taught me to stick it out, even in the worst days of my life. He was like a big brother looking out for a little brother.

"When you leave prison, the odds are so stacked against you. People figure that if you were a criminal, you're always a criminal. And the fact is, 80 percent of people who get locked up and get out come home [to prison] eventually. Eighty percent! But what else can they do? You got to have some reason to believe in something better. If we want to save these young people, they have to know that they can make it. They don't have to become victims or victimizers."

Wilson, a member of a street gang called the Moroccos, was drunk and high on Oct. 10, 1970, when he shot and killed 15-year-old Gregory Davis because, he said, he thought Davis was reaching into his pocket for his own gun. It was later determined that Davis possessed neither a weapon nor a police record.

"What I saw in Bernard was someone who could be saved," Wilson said. "I'd been in the system since I was 17. I didn't see the extreme hardness that a lot of boys come in here with. I saw in him a disposition that he wanted to show his mother (Shirley, now deceased) that he wasn't really the person he had been to wind up in this place. We started talking about boxing. He had a kind of tenacity to him, you know? He wanted to be a fighter. I just liked his attitude.

"Bernard was a natural. A lot of guys didn't want to spar with him. He was that good. He was even good when he started out. And he knew enough to stay away from the drugs and the guys that weren't really about anything good. He worked hard at boxing. You didn't



Hopkins (right) was well into his remarkable career when he fought William Bo James in 1996.

have to tell him to go out in the yard and run; he was doing it."

Hopkins' commitment to his new profession was put to the test immediately, when he dropped a four-round decision in his pro debut to Clinton Mitchell on Oct. 11, 1988. He didn't fight again for 16 months.

"I had to ask myself if I wanted to [continue to box] or go back on the streets of Philadelphia," he said. "From 1988 through half of 1990, I was inactive. I had to come to grips with whether I was going to live, think, eat and dedicate myself to boxing. I made my choice to do just that.

"When I made that decision – and it takes a strong mind, strong discipline and strong character – I never fell off the wagon again. I told myself this is what I wanted to do. I didn't want to go back to prison and I didn't want to end up dead."

On April 12, 2005, Hopkins did return to Graterford, for the dedication of a 20-by-40-foot mural of him in the prison gym. He signed it, "Bernard Hopkins, champ, 4/12/05."

"I fought Felix Trinidad and I didn't cry," a misty-eyed Hopkins said at the dedication. "I fought Oscar De La Hoya and didn't cry – he did. But seeing this ..."

Wilson said most, but not all, of Graterford's inmates cheer for Hopkins to win every fight because they see him as one of their own and a role model whose success offers them something of a blueprint for their own post-prison lives.

"There are some people in here who want to see him lose because there's always going to be jealousy and envy," Wilson said. "That's just human nature. It's the same in here as it is in the world.

"But most of us in this place want Bernard to win because, in a way, he's fighting for us. He showed that it is possible to leave prison, make it on the outside and never come back." RING

A WIN-WIN-WIN-WIN-WIN SITUATION

COULD THE MAKING OF **BERNARD HOPKINS-SERGEY KOVALEV** BE A TURNING POINT?

By **Tim Smith**

There were smiles all around the Vanderbilt room at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in early September. They were plastered on the faces of all the key players attending a press conference to announce the Bernard Hopkins-Sergey Kovalev light heavyweight unification fight on Nov. 8 at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City.

There was Kathy Duva of Main Events, who declared victory even though she had to drop all of her lawsuits against everyone she alleged had stood in the way of her making a fight between her client, Kovalev, and RING/WBC champion Adonis Stevenson after Stevenson fled HBO to sign a deal with rival network Showtime.

There was Ken Hershman, president of HBO Sports, who had stopped doing business with Golden Boy Promotions last year because he didn't like their business practices and negotiation techniques.

There was Oscar De La Hoya, CEO of Golden Boy, who thinks Hopkins-Kovalev is the icebreaker that can lead to a thaw in the frosty relationship between his company and HBO.

There was Hopkins, who took credit for prompting De La Hoya to make the deal with Duva and take the fight to HBO.

Bernard Hopkins and Sergey Kovalev ended up at center stage largely because of Hopkins.

There was Kovalev, who finally gets the big fight he needs to propel him into stardom.

And if a city could smile, maybe even Atlantic City – which saw two of its biggest casinos close their doors recently – forced a weak one from afar with the news that a big fight will bring some needed vitality to the Boardwalk.

Just a few months ago Stevenson was at the center of the 175-pound championship universe. Everyone else in the division, including Hopkins, was circling around him. When Stevenson abandoned HBO, and in effect a major unification bout against Kovalev, it seemed that he was heading for a big money showdown with Hopkins.

But now that Hopkins, the IBF and WBA champion, is fighting Kovalev, who holds the WBO title, it looks as if Stevenson is left out in the cold as far as major fights at 175 pounds are concerned.

Duva, believing she and Kovalev had been left at the altar by Stevenson's defection to Showtime, filed a lawsuit in April against Stevenson, Al Haymon (his manager), Yvon Michel (his promoter), Showtime and Golden Boy.

As soon as the ink was dry on the contract for Hopkins-Kovalev, she dropped the lawsuit.

"The whole theory of my case was they had killed my deal in order to make a fight with Hopkins and Stevenson," Duva said. "So this (Hopkins-Kovalev) kind of weakens my case. We got to drop the suit and declare victory. It doesn't get any better than that."

Hopkins said he pulled everyone's fat from the fire with his decision to fight Kovalev and take it to HBO.

"How did I, out all of the smart people with all these big degrees, figure out three scenarios by making one fight?" Hopkins said. "I must take credit and blow my own horn for this. I believe Al Haymon is thanking me from afar. I believe Richard Schaefer is thanking me from afar."

Since parting ways with Schaefer, the former CEO of Golden Boy Promotions, De La Hoya has been busy mending fences, first with his former promoter, Bob Arum of Top Rank, and now HBO. Getting back together with HBO – the network that made him a megastar and made him a very wealthy man – is a major move for him.

"It's an indication obviously that Golden Boy is willing to work with anyone who is willing to work with us," De La Hoya said. "This fight was driven by Hopkins and made by Golden Boy on HBO for the fans. It really is a great indication that whatever obstacles that we have in front of us, that if we have to make a fight for the fans ... then we're going to do it."

Hopkins said the conversation with De La Hoya played out like this: "He looked at me and said, 'Are you serious?' And I said, 'Yeah.' He asked me three days later and I said, 'Oscar, I'm not going to repeat myself. I'm serious.'

"He laughed and I laughed and it got done. It got done quick. They satisfied my needs and my worth. We satisfied their side. This deal was done in three days."

De La Hoya said he struggled with having to go to HBO to offer them the deal.

"My first thought was how do we break it to Showtime because we have a good relationship with Showtime," De La Hoya said. "We do a lot of business with Showtime. We've been doing all our major fights at Showtime. I have a great relationship with (Showtime Sports Executive Vice President) Stephen (Espinoza). But Bernard Hopkins is Bernard Hopkins and he's 49 years old and he deserves the very best deal that one can get him. I believe this fight with Kovalev was the perfect fit for HBO, for Hopkins, for everybody involved. We're happy to be back."

Hershman didn't refuse De La Hoya's phone call when it came in. He liked the fight and thought it was a great fit for HBO's fall boxing lineup.

"From our perspective it was a no-brainer. This is a big fight with a big name, the right price, the right environment, the right time of year," Hershman said. "It all came together rather quickly and we jumped on it. We thought this was a great way to re-establish our relationship with Oscar and Golden Boy. Where the future takes us, who knows? But we feel very comfortable about this one."

Now that the ice has been broken between Golden Boy and HBO, could Miguel Cotto-Canelo Alvarez be far behind? Apparently not. Alvarez jumped from Showtime to HBO in September, signing a multi-fight deal. Hershman said he planned to reach out to Cotto and his promoters at Top Rank about what would be a huge event.

"That's an exciting fight down the road if we can put it together. But it's too far down the road to speculate," Hershman said.

De La Hoya said besides Cotto they are looking at several opponents for Alvarez's next fight, on Dec. 6, including Joshua Clottey and James Kirkland. He said he's committed to working with everyone to make the fights that the fans want to see.

"There's too much at stake," he said. "The fans have been paying for first-class tickets and sitting in coach for I don't know how long. It's time the fans get what they deserve."

Manny Pacquiao might have the least transparent face in sports.

SUBSTANCE BEHIND THE STARE

MANNY PACQUIAO DOESN'T REVEAL MUCH WITH WORDS OR FACIAL EXPRESSIONS BUT HIS INNER STRENGTH, HONED OVER A DIFFICULT LIFE, MIGHT BE UNDERRATED

By **Mark Whicker**

His face is a blank sheet, an empty vessel. You pour in whatever you like, you see what you want to see. By minimizing his words and withholding his emotion, Manny Pacquiao is perhaps the least-transparent famous face in sports. Anything you think about the eight-time world champion could be right, or wrong. What's undisputed is his quickness, his power and his astonishing record.

A career that began with a four-round fight in early 1995, when Pacquiao weighed 98 pounds, has stretched through 20 years, 11 weight divisions and 66 fights. The 67th will happen Nov. 22 in Macau, against undefeated Chris Algieri.

You only do that with qualities that most boxers proclaim they have in abundance – toughness, character, heart. He rarely says a word about any of those, but they might be his most underrated traits.

"He's had a lot of tough fights," said Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's Hall of Fame trainer. "He fought (Antonio) Margarito and took a couple of tough shots. He sort of cringed and I thought he might go down, and he didn't."

No, he didn't. He also turned Margarito's face into a bloody mess on the way to a one-sided decision that night in 2010.

On the journey to 147-pound dominance, Pacquiao has met and defeated almost every credentialed opponent except Floyd Mayweather Jr. He took on Erik Morales three times, 25 rounds in all, and won twice. He beat Marco Antonio Barrera twice. Obviously he went through the four-act passion play with Juan Manuel Marquez.

And in 2008 he was brazen enough to jump from lightweight to welterweight to challenge Oscar De La Hoya, a weight-defying gesture that most of the boxing world did not quite believe.

"Even some of my fans were worried about that fight," Pacquiao said.

He retired De La Hoya that night, when the Golden Boy did not come out for the ninth round. Roach, who had trained De La Hoya in his close loss to Mayweather the year before, noticed during sparring sessions that left-handers were a problem. Now in a different corner, Roach bet on Pacquiao's superior quickness. "He hit Oscar with a shot in the first round," Roach said, "and I saw the expression on Oscar's face. And I said, 'That's it, he's done.'"

But Roach knows where the fortitude really comes from. Pacquiao finds IT in a place he visits before almost all of Pacquiao's fights.

"It has to do with his upbringing," Roach said.

CHINAFOTOPRESS/GETTY IMAGES

There are 100 million people in the Philippines, the 12th most populous country in the world. More than a quarter of those people fell below the nation's poverty line in 2012. Children are everywhere, unsupervised, some of them homeless, some of them forced into entrepreneurship far earlier than they should be.

When Roach is there with Pacquiao, the champ will often point out a waifish child on the sidewalk. "That was me," he will say.

"He showed me where he used to sell donuts on the street corner," Roach said. "He couldn't look forward to the next day. He had to worry about that particular day. That's sad, sometimes."

Pacquiao's mother and father separated and she wasn't able to support the six children. At 14 Pacquiao took to the streets. He sometimes slept in a park, underneath a cardboard box. Eventually he made his way into a boxing gym. Fighting as an amateur, he worked a construction job to make it all work.

"Sometimes I was on a high-rise, sometimes on the ground," Pacquiao

Pacquiao maintains a look of calm even though he is pulled in so many directions.

said in early September, while in a van with his friends and his manager, Michael Koncz, as they rode from interview to interview in Los Angeles. Afterward, Pacquiao threw out the first pitch before a game between the Dodgers and Washington Nationals.

"I was welding, I was painting, hammering. I'd make 1,000 pesos a week. That's $23. That's how I survived. But it was hard for me to do that and still maintain boxing."

Pacquiao was a distinguished amateur, turned pro early in 1995 and quickly became one of the stars of "Blow by Blow," a boxing show televised after Philippine basketball games. Later that year, a friend of Pacquiao's named Eugene Barutag was knocked out by Randy Barugan and collapsed in his corner. With no medical help at ringside, Barutag died.

The fact that Pacquiao could make it to even one championship was herculean. The fact that he now owns mansions throughout the Philippines and a house in Los Angeles' leafy Hancock Park neighborhood is one of modern sport's great miracles.

"I saw a girl on the street there and gave her 1,000 pesos," Roach said. "Then I thought, maybe I shouldn't have done that. It'll just mean someone will rob her later."

Angelo Merino teaches a Philippine Studies class at the University of San Francisco and is also the coach of the Dons' intercollegiate boxing team. Like many Filipinos, he sees a lot of different things in Pacquiao's blank stare, and sometimes the champion frustrates him.

But Merino is never unaware of what Pacquiao means.

"He is the man who put our country on the map," Merino said. "Manny above everything else is a symbol of hope. When our people see him, they say, 'Maybe I can do this, too.'"

Pacquiao shrugs off the many tentacles that the world sends his way. His friends have seen him stand in broiling sun, signing autographs for 5,000 Filipinos without blinking.

When he got to the Fox Network studios on this day, the producers had a surprise for him. They had written a song about how badly the NFL was missed during the off-season and they wanted Pacquiao to sing it for the upcoming pre-game show during Week 1. Although some of his handlers grumbled, Pacquiao listened to a tape of the verse, read the cue cards and performed it without complaint.

Back in the van, Pacquiao was asked how he puts boxing in perspective at age 35.

"I fight to inspire the people," he said. "I know that I can't go to the mall or shop by myself, even in Los Angeles. It's OK. I'm a champion, so it's a good thing. It's good to be popular. I can use it to inspire."

But Roach had been hoping to nudge Pacquiao into retirement before the fourth fight with

Marquez on Dec. 8, 2012. Pacquiao was involved in Philippine politics, his marriage to his wife Jinkee was increasingly turbulent and there was gambling and other late-night temptations.

He had barely survived Marquez the year before. A noticeably stronger Marquez knocked him down early in the 2012 fight. Pacquiao then rallied, broke Marquez's nose and had him wobbling at the end of the sixth round. Roach was and is convinced that Marquez would not have left his stool when Round 7 began.

It did not get that far. Just before the bell, Pacquiao's right foot and Marquez's left foot got together and Pacquiao strayed right into the strike zone. Marquez's perfect right hand put Pacquiao down on his chest. There was no need to count.

Within the tumult, Pacquiao did not move for several poignant seconds. Then he rose, smiling, and left the ring with no apparent damage. What Pacquiao knew, and what nobody else knew, is that he foresaw that ending.

"God showed me what would happen, the previous week," Pacquiao said. "If you see the reaction on my face, there's no reaction. I'm smiling. It has happened."

Yes, but how does that explain the fact that Pacquiao was probably five seconds away from one of his greatest wins?

"That was just part of it," he said. "God was testing my faith and belief. It was time for me to be a real Christian. What I saw the previous week, it happened."

After Pacquiao got up, he wore a T-shirt that said, "Finished Business." That immediately seemed like Pacquiao's retirement statement. Instead, he took a layoff of nearly 12 months and in late November of 2013 he professionally disposed of Brandon Rios. Five months later he outboxed Tim Bradley, who had been awarded a boo-worthy decision over Pacquiao in 2012. He looks as quick and precise as he did in the 2008-09 period of dominance.

And, to the extent anyone can tell, he seems content.

"I committed to God in 2010," he said, riding along toward the ESPN studios. "It's how I live my life. I read the Bible every day. Something happened in my life. Yeah, I was struggling but I wanted to stop all the things that were troubling me, in God's sight."

Among his favorite verses is Romans 6:13: "Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God."

This, said Merino, is what frustrates many Filipinos.

"He was a Roman Catholic his whole life," Merino said. "Our country is overwhelmingly Catholic. Now he's a born-again Christian, he's involved in faith healing. He used to observe Mass before his fights.

"It's like basketball. He coaches the team (the Kia Sorrentos, of the Philippine Basketball League) and now he's the first-round draft pick and he's short even for a Filipino and he's 35 years old. And it's like politics. People talk about how he's going to be president of the Philippines, and there's no way. Back home they look at him and say, 'Who decided that you are going to be a special leader?' I love the guy, we all love the guy. But why is he doing all these things? He is a boxer first."

Pacquiao was re-elected as a congressman in 2013, running unopposed. Roach also is wary of Pacquiao's political future.

"I never saw a Filipino politician who wasn't rich," he said. "The only reason Manny won't be president is that he wants to help people. The politicians don't want to do that. That's what I worry about. Somebody might shoot him because of that."

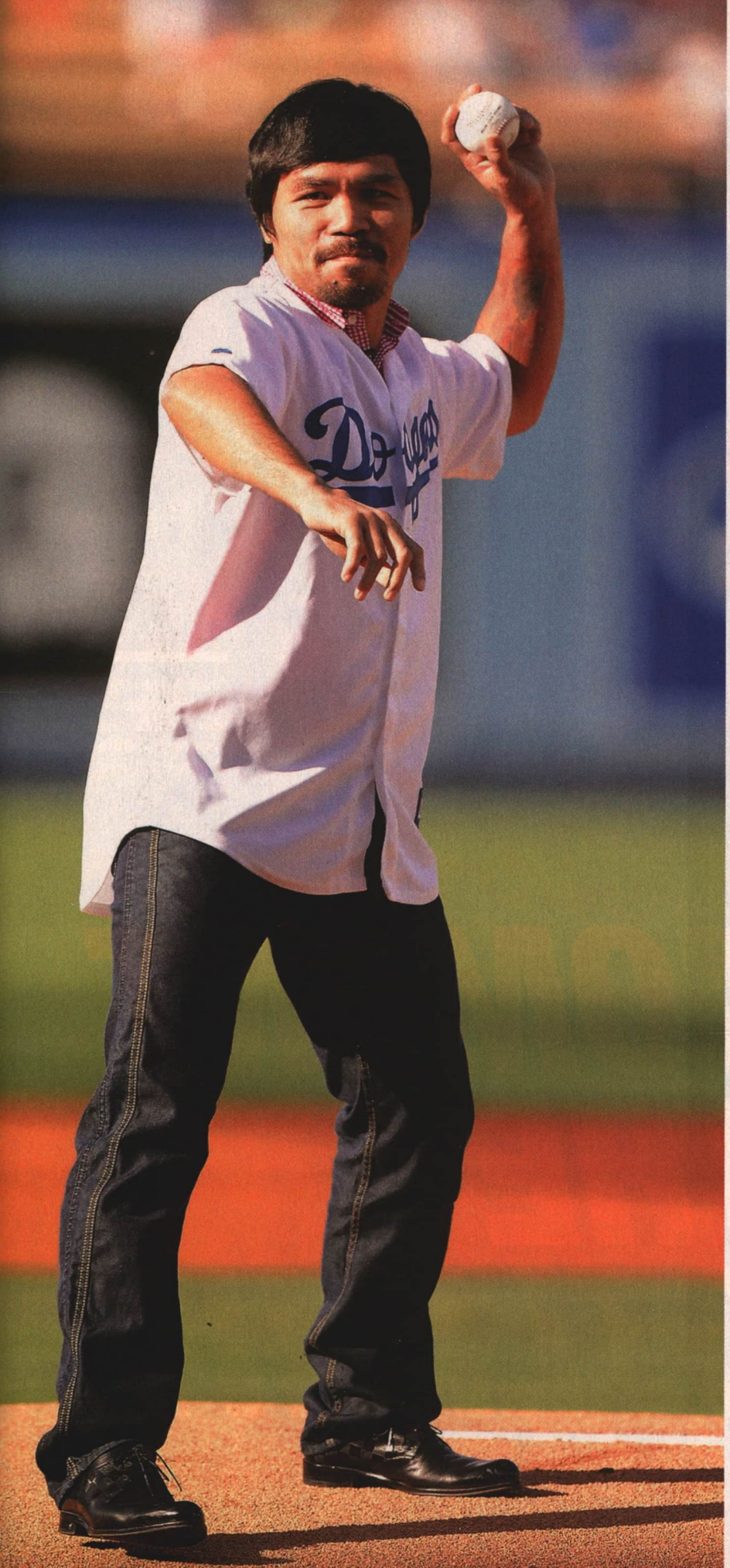
One of Pacquiao's campaigns is to address human trafficking in the Philippines. Estimates are that 300,000 to 400,000 women are victims every year and 80 percent of all victims are girls younger than 18.

"Those kids are in danger," Roach said. "I had a big van over there one day and about 13 kids wanted me to give them a ride to where Manny was training. There were a couple of parents there, but I thought, 'This is what human trafficking is.' Anybody who has a better offer, they'll go there. Maybe they won't come back. It didn't dawn on me until I got about halfway to camp. I thought, 'You know, maybe this isn't the best idea in the world.'"

They return to the Philippines to prepare for Algieri. The training process is sometimes the first reason for boxers to retire. But maybe it's where Pacquiao's inner fiber is most visible. Roach has said he will give him one day off to play for the Sorrentos, but that's it.

The rest of it is sparring and training on the accelerated level that is demanded of 35-year-olds. Some of the sparring partners are not just in there for a "friendly." Some, like Ruslan Provodnikov used to and

'WE DON'T GIVE AWAY MUCH WITH OUR EXPRESSIONS, NOT MUCH BEYOND YES AND NO. MANNY IS LIKE THAT. HE WILL JUST SAY, 'I'LL SEE YOU IN THE RING.' BUT IF HE EVER FIGHTS MAYWEATHER, HE WILL REMEMBER EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED OVER THE YEARS AND ALL THE THINGS HE'S FELT.'
— ANGELO MERINO



Pacquiao said his days of walking down the street anonymously are long behind him – "even in Los Angeles."

like Frankie "Pit Bull" Gomez does now, are there to test Pacquiao. And he answers.

Algieri, the undefeated college grad from Long Island, New York, has fun beating Pacquiao at pool and bowling on their media tours. He plays the nothing-to-lose card. Pacquiao just smiles and says nothing.

He was just as taciturn when Mayweather, trying to bait him before a proposed fight in 2010, said he would "cook that little yellow chump" and force him to "make me a sushi roll and some rice."

Merino sees that stone face and smiles. He says Filipinos have developed that stoicism through centuries of colonialism, by the Spanish and the Americans, and the Japanese invasion in World War II. Ferdinand Marcos held the country in his grip until the People Power Revolution in 1986.

"That is a major part of our history," he said. "We've been the victims of oppression. The Filipinos hold grudges. But we are able to adapt to situations. We don't give away much with our expressions, not much beyond yes and no.

"Manny is like that. He will just say, 'I'll see you in the ring.' But if he ever fights Mayweather, he will remember everything that has happened over the years and all the things he's felt."

There's something special about the violence of a peaceful man.

Chris Algieri (right) stood tall during the promotional tour but has never faced an opponent with the stature of Manny Pacquiao.

A MOMENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

THE B-SIDE FIGHTERS WHO FACE THE LIKES OF **MAYWEATHER** OR **PACQUIAO** ALL EXPERIENCE ONE THING: UPHEAVAL

By **Tim Smith**

Timothy Bradley knew something big was brewing when his manager kept telling him that he was working on something special for his next bout and that Bradley needed to be patient.

Bradley didn't know for certain but he suspected the major bout his manager was working on was against Manny Pacquiao, who at the time was ranked No. 2 pound-for-pound by most experts and one of the biggest attractions in the sport.

"Manny Pacquiao was in my circle and he was going to need a dance partner," said Bradley, referring to his speculation.

As he waited, all sorts of thoughts flooded his mind: What would the promotion be like? How much would he have to increase the intensity of his training? How would he handle the glare of the spotlight of a mega pay-per-view boxing event?

After he signed the contract for the match against Pacquiao, all of his questions were answered – and it was overwhelming.

"Honestly there are different levels of boxing," Bradley said. "When you're at the top level you feel the pressure. The media exposure is ridiculous. You answer the same questions over and over and it can be draining. The hype is 100 times more than just an HBO show or a HBO Championship Boxing. It's another level of boxing. You do feel the pressure.

"The first time I was on stage it was the most frightening time of my career. This is what I asked for and now I'm getting it. Geez, what am I going to do now that I'm on this level?"

Every boxer who has challenged the superstars of the sport – think Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr. – has had the same thoughts and feelings as Bradley. In modern parlance those challengers are called the "B-side" of the promotion.

They're good boxers in their own

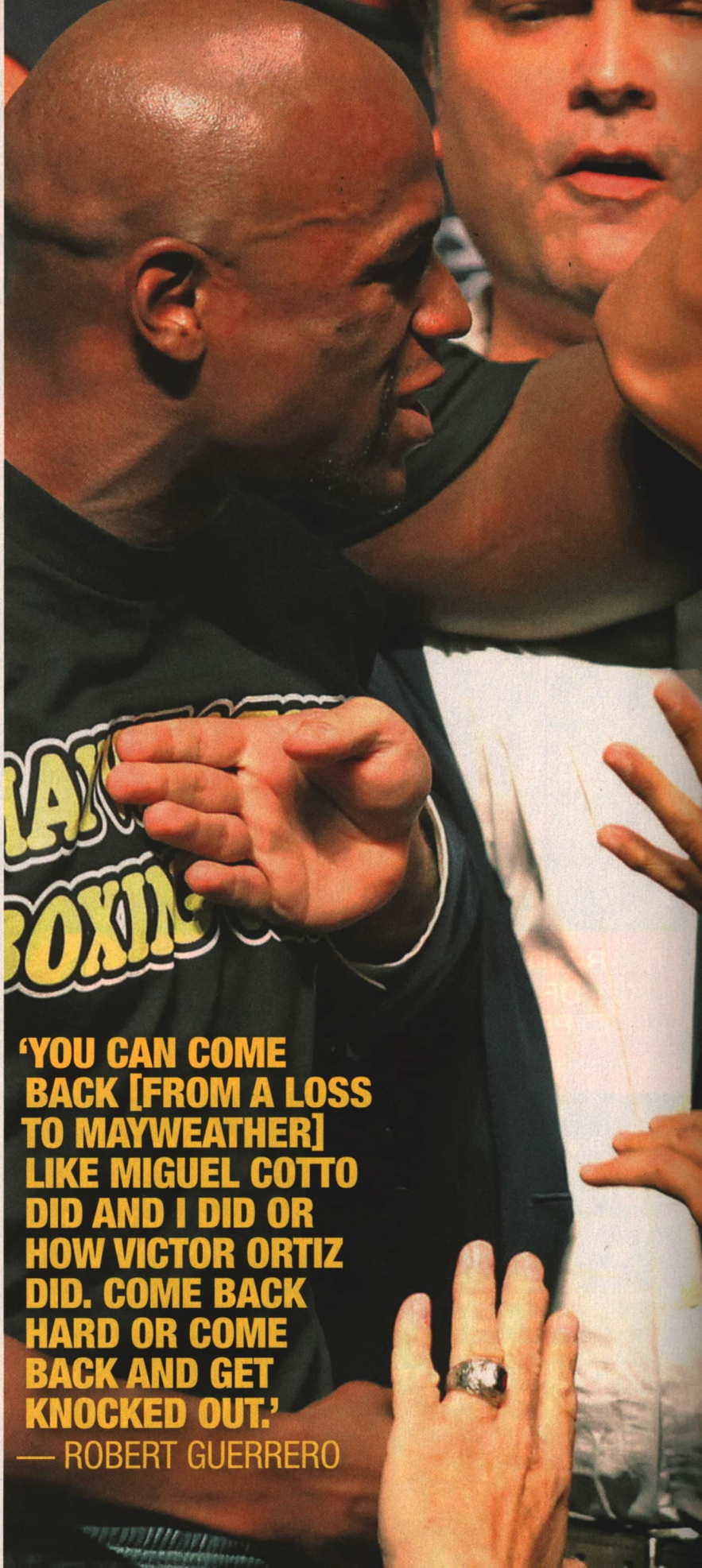
right but they aren't the stars. And while they're expected to contribute to staging an entertaining show, they are not "The Show." Fans don't pay top dollar to see the B-sides. But if they pull off an upset or push the star to the brink in a thrilling performance, they can become stars themselves and command better fights and higher purses in the future. If not, then they fade back into semi-obscurity.

"You have the opportunity to fight the best fighter in the world and have the opportunity to get that shot," said Robert Guerrero, who fought and lost to Mayweather Jr. in May 2013. "It's beneficial to whoever fights Mayweather. You get a bigger fan base. You're more in the public eye. For anybody it's a win-win situation. It's about how you come back in the fight and keep trucking. You can come back like Miguel Cotto did and I did or how Victor Ortiz did. Come back hard or come back and get knocked out."

Ortiz is the cautionary tale for B-side boxers. After he was knocked out in the fourth round by Mayweather, his boxing career went into a nosedive. He suffered a broken jaw and had to quit in the ninth round against Josesito Lopez. He took time off to make the movie "The Expendables 3" and then came back to boxing and was KO'd in the second round by Luis Collazo. Now Ortiz's boxing career looks expendable.

Cotto had a well-established career before he faced Mayweather and Pacquiao so he could be called an "A-minus" side more than a B-side. Cotto was paid significantly more than any of Mayweather's other opponents, an $8 million guarantee. And since losing to both "A-sides," Cotto has rebounded to become the RING and WBC middleweight champion.

Bradley said how you emerge from a major boxing event all depends on how you enter. He had to calm his nerves and roll with the punches



'YOU CAN COME BACK [FROM A LOSS TO MAYWEATHER] LIKE MIGUEL COTTO DID AND I DID OR HOW VICTOR ORTIZ DID. COME BACK HARD OR COME BACK AND GET KNOCKED OUT.'
— ROBERT GUERRERO

Victor Ortiz (right) ultimately folded under the glare of a mega-fight spotlight.

of the massive promotion leading to his first fight against Pacquiao, in June 2012. He was fully focused in training, he said, despite the ever-present cameras for HBO's "24/7" show. When he stepped into the ring he was ready. He defeated Pacquiao by a controversial split decision.

It was a bittersweet victory for Bradley, who for some reason took as much criticism as the two judges whose inexplicable scorecards gave the B-side the victory. The public backlash got to the point that Bradley received threats against his family and he went into a depression as a result. On top of that he was unable to get an immediate rematch with Pacquiao. That might've been the best thing to happen for his career because he was able to re-establish his credentials with a technically sharp victory over Juan Manuel Marquez and a heart-pounding victory in a pitched battle against Ruslan Provodnikov before getting another crack at his A-side nemesis. Bradley, who earned $11 million from the two Pacquiao fights, lost the rematch by a lopsided 12-round decision and is looking to rebound again.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao will face relative unknown Chris Algieri in his next HBO Pay-Per-View extravaganza in Macau, China. Algieri burst onto the scene with a scintillating upset of Provodnikov for the WBO junior welterweight title on HBO. Before that match, the New York-based Algieri had fought just once on ESPN and had not ventured far from his hometown of Huntington, Long Island, for club shows. In the span of three fights Algieri's purses went from $15,000 to $100,000 to $1 million for the Pacquiao fight.

Once he signed to fight Pacquiao, Algieri was thrust into the world of big-time boxing, embarking

on a 27,273-mile promotional tour that made stops in Shanghai, Macau, Beijing, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York. It was a jet-set lifestyle of private planes, SUV convoys, and steak and lobster dinners. It also brought Algieri up close to a boxing icon.

"You watch a guy like that for a decade. I was a kid in high school watching those fights," Algieri said. "You're never around the guy. You never met the guy. And now you're fighting the guy. For me to be around and see that he's flesh and blood, he's got two hands, two feet, he's got a head ... that helped quite a bit in terms of helping me grasp everything."

Bradley said Algieri may think he has a grasp on everything but he has no idea. As he gets closer to the ring, the pressure will only increase.

"It is nerve wracking. You can guarantee that the dude (Algieri) is having a lot of sleepless nights," Bradley said. "This is his moment to shine. He wants to upset Pacquiao. Your nerves get rattled. I'm not sure if he knows what he's up against. He's a good boxer, but he's never fought at this level. Ruslan Provodnikov is no Manny Pacquiao. Pacquiao has the speed, the knowledge to win rounds and he's very clever in the ring."

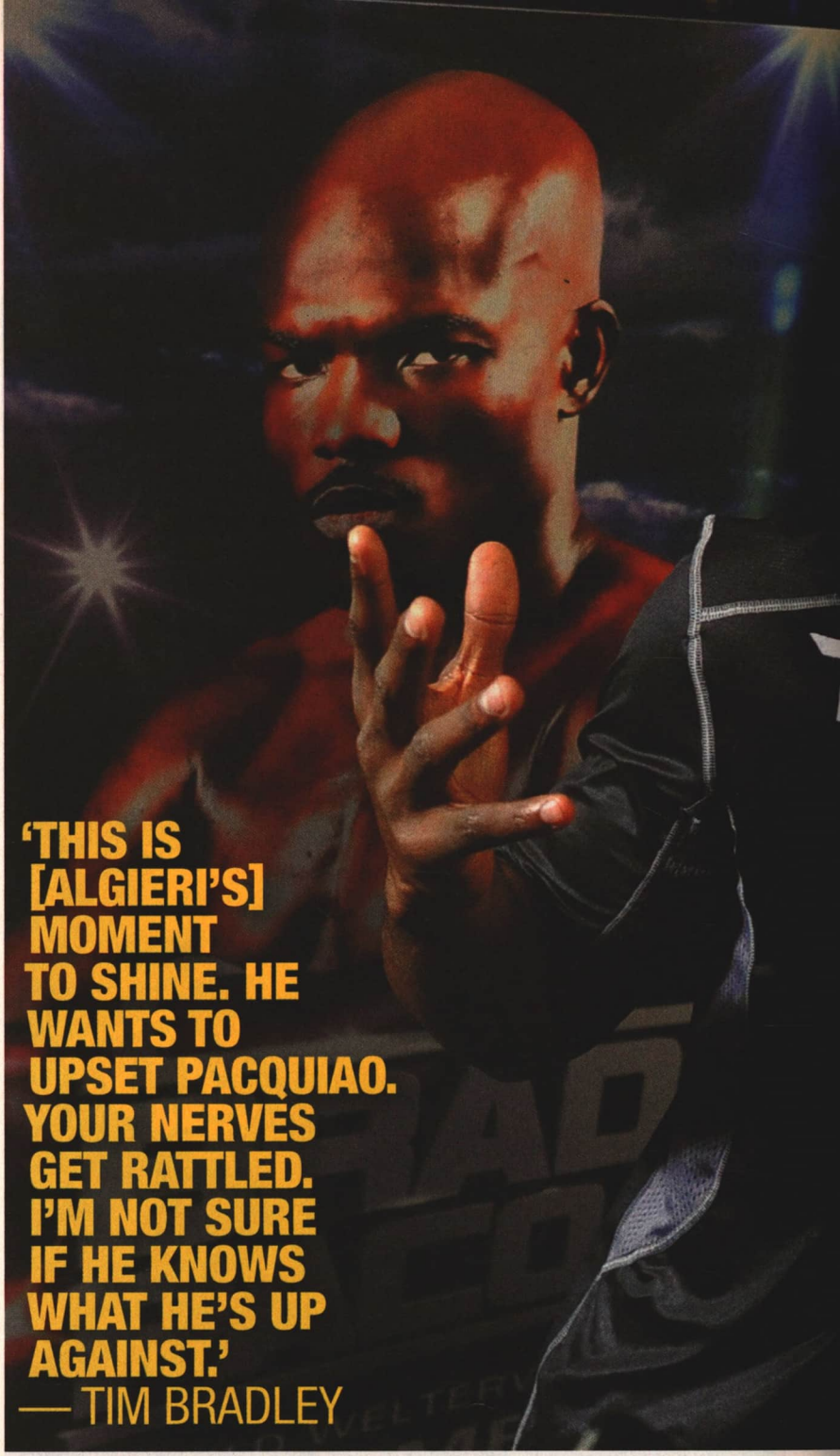
Guerrero thought he was prepared for Mayweather before their fight. He's a small-town guy from Gilroy, California, but he was more established than Algieri when he got the call for the fight of his life. Guerrero had won world titles at junior lightweight and featherweight.

Mayweather canceled the media tour for the Guerrero fight, so there weren't that many bright lights, private planes and constant queries from the press. But there were Showtime cameras everywhere as part of the "All-Access" program. Guerrero said he wasn't distracted by the cameras. He enjoyed the exposure.

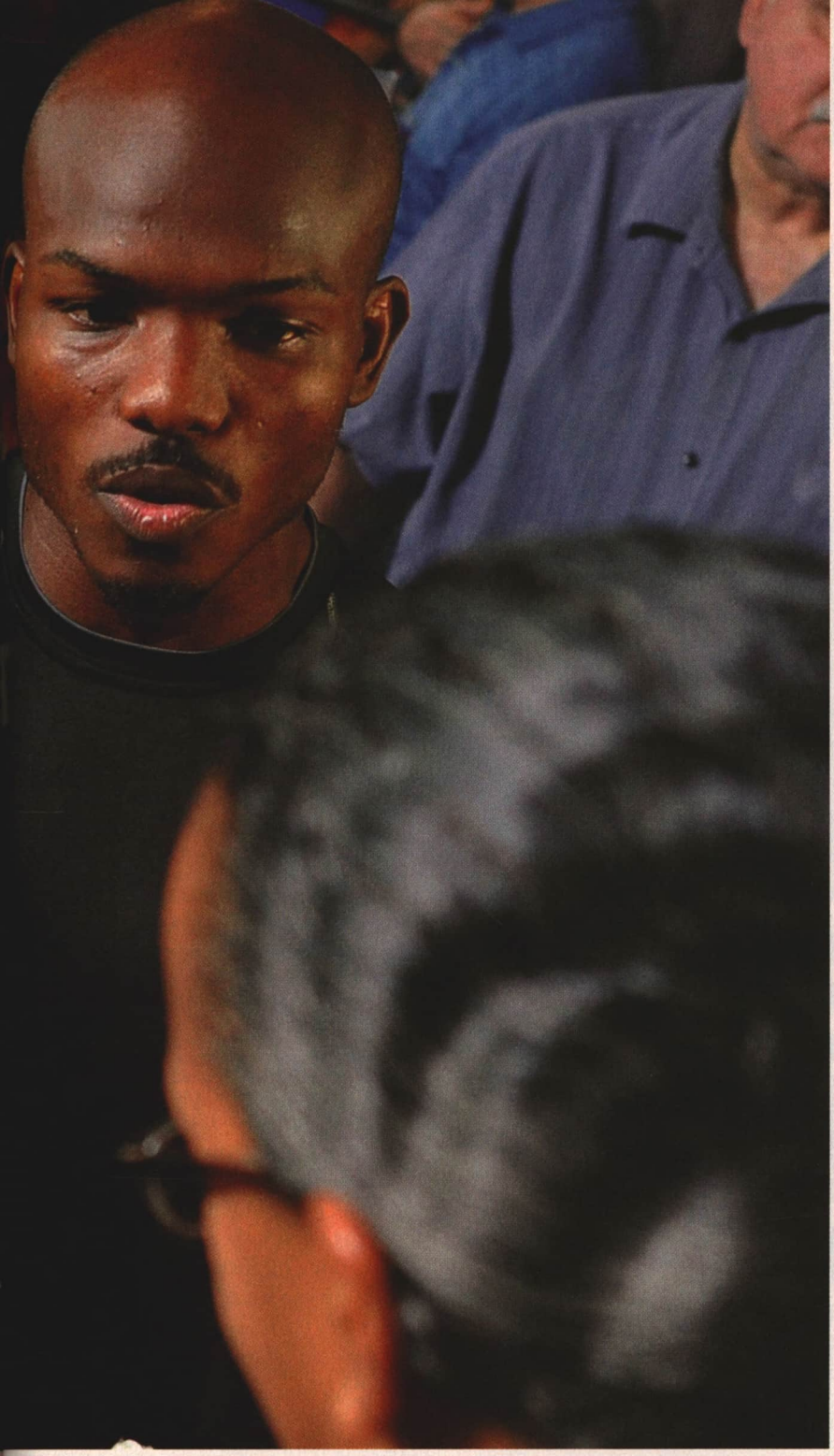
"It's great for the fans to really get to know you. Boxing is what we do, but not who we are behind the scenes," Guerrero said. "I'm one of those guys, I like to show the fans how much I appreciate [them] and how much they mean to all of us fighters."

Guerrero didn't get a chance to show much in the ring against Mayweather. He realized quickly that Mayweather's speed and defensive prowess were far superior to his. He lost a one-sided, unanimous decision without laying a glove on Mayweather. He learned a tough lesson that night.

"Just being prepared and always being on your toes and being ready for everything and always keep an open mind to getting better for the fight," Guerrero said. "And also



'THIS IS [ALGIERI'S] MOMENT TO SHINE. HE WANTS TO UPSET PACQUIAO. YOUR NERVES GET RATTLED. I'M NOT SURE IF HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S UP AGAINST.'
— TIM BRADLEY



Tim Bradley beat Manny Pacquiao in their first fight but was overwhelmed by the fallout.

chasing Mayweather around the ring, the experience of that is you figure out how fast he really is."

Guerrero was guaranteed $3 million for the fight, the most of his career. But the loss, even though it came against the best boxer in the world, knocked his career off stride. It took him 13 months to get back into the ring and his return fight wasn't a high-profile affair. He outpointed Yoshihiro Kamegai in a brutal, relatively insignificant 12-rounder on the undercard of the Vasyl Lomachenko-Gary Russell Jr. fight in June.

Despite the downside, Guerrero said he would do it all over again.

"It's how you take it. It's how you enter that ring and how you're a professional. How much you want to be the best in the world is what it comes down to," he said.

Marcos Maidana earned his shot against Mayweather based on an impressive victory over Adrien Broner, who at the time was considered Mayweather's heir apparent. And he earned a rematch against Mayweather based on a gritty performance in their first fight.

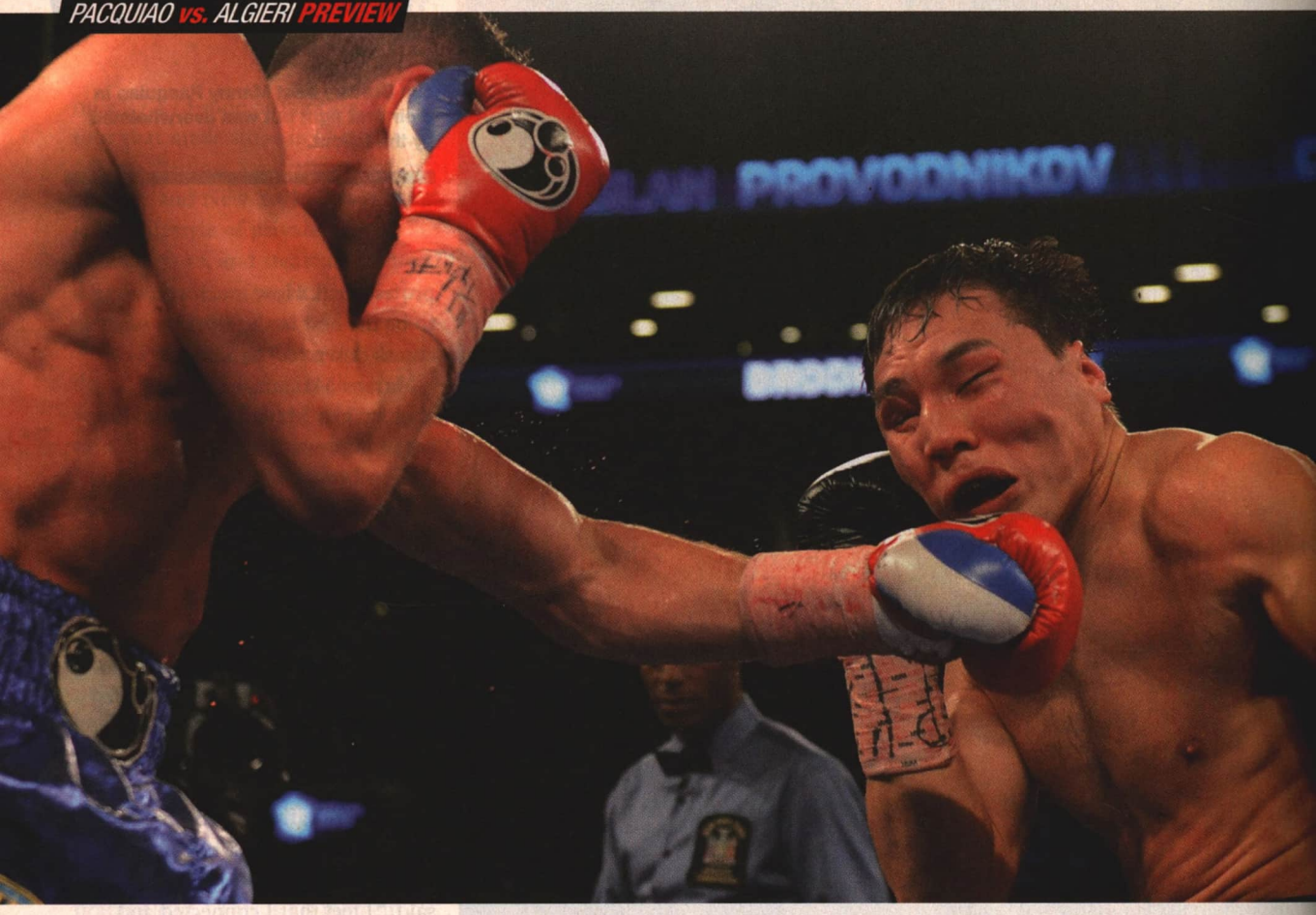
After 24 rounds and two losses against Mayweather, Maidana has gotten a graduate-level education in boxing. He believes there was no drawback to having both fights in a six-month span.

"I'm very satisfied with my performances against him. I feel I did very well against him," Maidana said. "I feel that I connected and landed punches that other fighters weren't able to. I think I'm fine. I'm still at the same level. I can fight anybody at that level."

Robert Garcia, Maidana's trainer, believes the Argentine will benefit tremendously from being the B-side against Mayweather.

"With the two fights against Floyd and the performances that we had against him, I think Chino is in a great position for great fights," he said. "There are so many big names out there that fight in the welterweight division. I'm sure someone will step up and I'm sure Al Haymon (Maidana's advisor) will find him someone great in the future. There's nothing to be ashamed of. We fought the best and I think we did a great job both times and I think we're in a great position right now."

Only time will tell whether Maidana will follow the route of Bradley, Ortiz or Guerrero, but as long as boxing is a star-driven sport there will always be a need for B-side boxers who are looking for their moment in the spotlight.



ALGIERI CAN BEAT PACQUIAO IF ...

... THESE FIVE THINGS HAPPEN

By Don Stradley

Chris Algieri survived two knockdowns and a swollen eye to take Ruslan Provodnikov's junior welterweight belt and put himself in line for a bout against Manny Pacquiao on Nov. 22 in Macau, China, a fight that would radically change Algieri's life if he can somehow win.

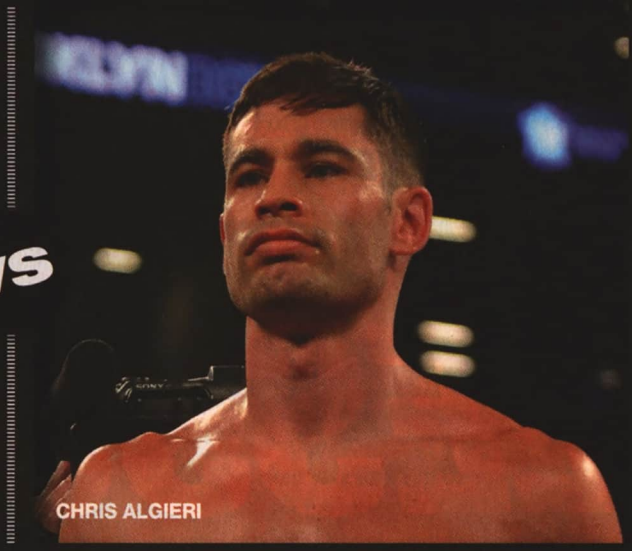
Chris Algieri passed a significant test by beating Ruslan Provodnikov. Many believe Pacquiao presents a much bigger challenge.

Of course, with echoes of "Chris Who?" still in the air, we'll understand if you're not exactly frothing at the mouth over this one. Then again, if boxing has taught us anything throughout its colorful history, it's to never entirely dismiss a fighter's chances, even if he's a 30-year-old reformed kickboxer with fewer KOs on his resume (eight) than Pacquiao has recorded songs in Tagalog (16).

It may seem overly optimistic to entertain the possibility of an upset, but isn't that why so many of us tune into these events? Some people enjoy a sure thing, which is why Mike Tyson was so popular back in the day. Still, there's nothing quite so enjoyable as when the boxing world is unexpectedly knocked from its axis. That's why some of us still send Christmas cards to Buster Douglas every year. »

MANNY PACQUIAO

VS



CHRIS ALGIERI

SOME THINGS MUST HAPPEN IF ALGIERI HAS ANY HOPE OF PULLING OFF A BUSTER DOUGLAS-STYLE SHOCKER IN THE COTAI ARENA. HERE ARE FIVE.

1. PACQUIAO UNDERESTIMATES HIM

When the bout was announced, Pacquiao quietly shrugged Algieri off as "an average fighter." He has since praised Algieri as a worthy opponent but his initial comments are revealing. This is to be expected, considering Pacquiao built his legend by beating guys with names like De La Hoya, Morales, and Cotto. Yes, compared to those fighters, Algieri is something along the lines of average. But underdogs occasionally come up big, especially when the favorite's prime is getting farther behind him every year. Pacquiao, after all, is 35 – and not a young 35.

2. PACQUIAO SHOWS HIS AGE

Pacquiao (56-5-2, 38 knockouts) has had nearly as many fights (63) as the much older Bernard Hopkins (65). One of these days the effects of Pacquiao's hectic career are going to show in the ring. Who is to say it won't happen in Macau? If Pacquiao is even a fraction slower than usual, the younger, fresher Algieri can take advantage of him. Of course, even a diminished Pacquiao is difficult, so Algieri (20-0, 8 KOs) will have to work hard, which leads to our next point.

3. ALGIERI PICKS UP THE PACE

One reason Algieri beat Provodnikov was that Provodnikov was too slow and methodical. It doesn't take the top thinkers at Google to predict that Pacquiao will be busier than Provodnikov. Hence, Algieri will have to land considerably more punches than he did against Provodnikov. And how will he do that? See No. 4.

4. ALGIERI USES SIZE ADVANTAGES

Coming up a few pounds in weight will mean little to the enormous Algieri. In recent photo ops Algieri appears to be as tall as Primo Carnera in comparison to former flyweight Pacquiao. Granted, Pacquiao has whipped taller opponents in the past, but Algieri is not just another tall fighter. He's a competent boxer with a slippery, frustrating style. It's not impossible to imagine Algieri using his long reach to tap Pacquiao with jabs and right leads, and then use his long legs to move out of range. At the risk of sounding like Max Kellerman, it may not be aesthetically pleasing but it may win some rounds. But for any of this to happen …

5. ALGIERI MUSTN'T BE INTIMIDATED

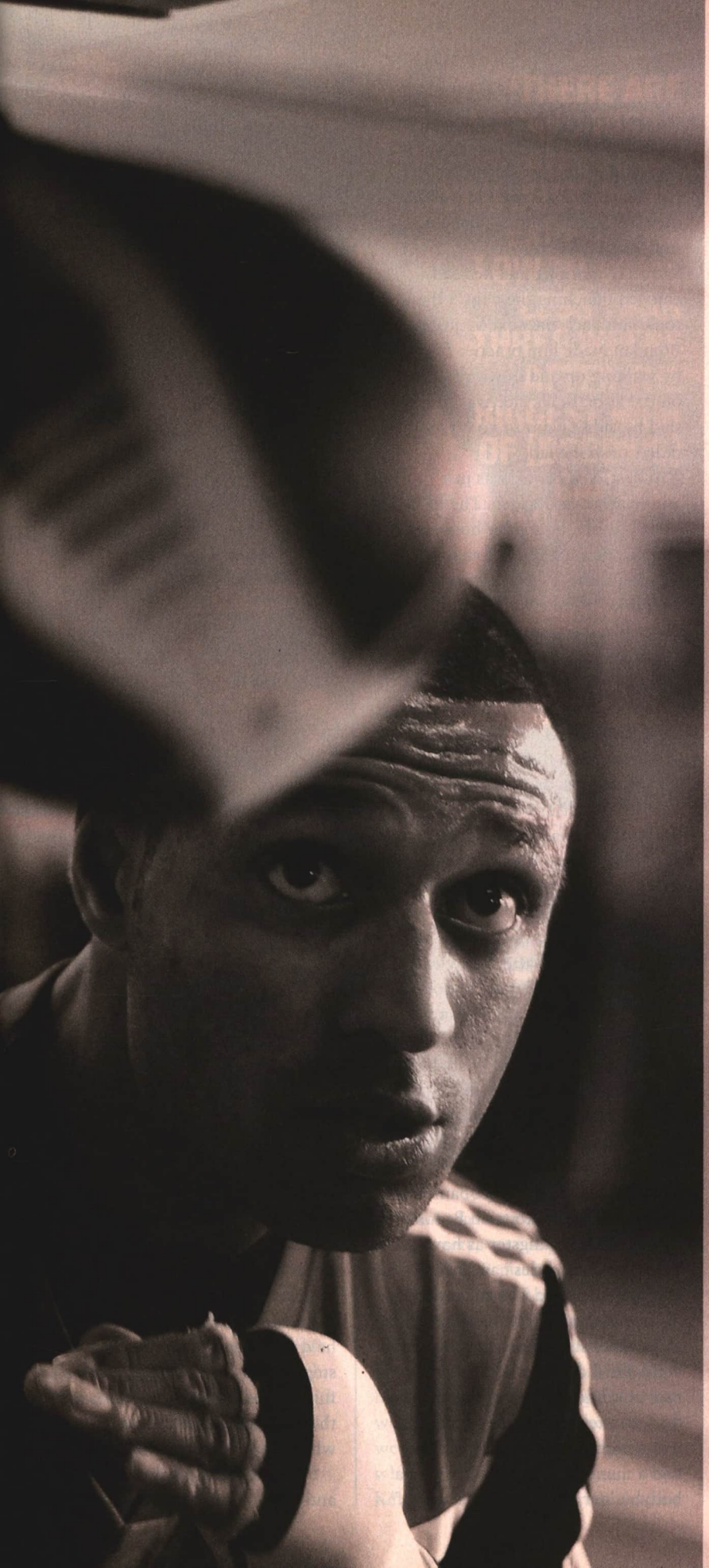
Even Brandon Rios, a tough fighter who looks as if he was born to swap blows with men who live in caves, admitted to being in awe of Pacquiao when they met last year. That's a testament to Pacquiao's enduring mystique. Yet Pacquiao hasn't knocked anyone out since early in the Obama administration and he has enough losses on his record to prove he's human. Algieri will learn early in the fight that there is a world of difference between Provodnikov and Pacquiao, but he can't be overwhelmed by Pacquiao's aura or the magnitude of the event. This, more than anything else written here, is the main factor in whether Algieri spends the rest of his days having his suits tailor-made or buying them off the rack at Marshall's.

LIFE LESSONS

KELL BROOK USED WHAT HE LEARNED IN THE GYM TO WIN A WORLD TITLE BUT HIS SUBSEQUENT STABBING MIGHT INDICATE HE HAS MORE ROOM TO GROW

By **Elliot Worsell**

Kell Brook didn't have long to celebrate his first world title.



For nearly 20 years, IBF world welterweight champion Kell Brook has sought solace in the mantras "hit and don't get hit" and "the shots you don't see are the ones that do the most damage." As a child at Sheffield's Wincobank Gym, messages such as these were imprinted on his mind like nursery rhymes. And Brendan Ingle, the gym's eccentric pied piper, would often sing and rap them.

To his mentor's delight, Brook, now an adult, was the embodiment of those catchphrases in August as he snatched his current championship from the clumsy hands of Shawn Porter in Carson, California. He was slick and sneaky. He hit and then didn't get hit with much in return. He was clever. He neutralized Porter's exuberance. Then, when the time was right, he stung the champion with fast shots he never saw coming. It couldn't have gone any better.

Yet, less than three weeks after his crowning moment, Brook let his guard down, forgot all about defense and words of wisdom, and was stabbed once in the leg inside an apartment on the island of Tenerife. It was 6 o'clock in the morning. He never saw it coming. Buckets of blood poured from the gaping wound on his left thigh as he staggered out of the apartment complex, climbed over a wall and looked for refuge in another building. A trail of claret was left behind and the commotion alerted neighbors, who called for security and the police. An ambulance followed and Brook underwent a 90-minute operation at Candelaria Hospital in Santa Cruz.

"Training Kell Brook has often been a roller-coaster," said the fighter's trainer, Dominic Ingle (Brendan's son). "There are always highs and lows. You just don't expect the low to come less than three weeks after the biggest high of his career. It's like when they say a football (soccer) team is most susceptible to conceding a goal when

they've just scored. You're on a high and you overlook certain things. You get carried away."

Details of the incident remained hazy at press time. Brook claimed he was "the victim of an unprovoked attack." What we do know is that a proposed first defense of his IBF title on Dec. 6 was shelved as a result.

"Kell is a down-to-earth lad," said Ingle, "and he wouldn't have been looking at himself as some kind of celebrity. He just thinks he can carry on like normal. The thing is, people around him won't see him the same way. They will see him on TV, they will follow him on Twitter. To them, he is a celebrity.

"I now understand why sportsmen have a bodyguard with them at all times. If you're in the public eye, you become a target. If someone dislikes you or something you said on TV, it can lead to disaster."

Had the stab wound been elsewhere on his body, or had he not been able to notify neighbors, a celebratory piece about Kell Brook's rise to a world championship may well have descended into something resembling a regrettable obituary. In that sense, he got lucky. *Very lucky*. And, with that in mind, the proud sentiments of those close to him, collected just days before the unsavory incident occurred, take on added poignancy.

"Kell's always been a mummy's boy," said his mother, Julie, who gave birth to Kell at the tender age of 18 and raised him in the Shirecliffe and then Hillsborough neighborhoods of Sheffield. "I think it's because I've grown up with him. I've got a really good bond with Kell. His friends used to take the Mickey out of him for it.

"He's quite grounded, though. He doesn't walk around with an attitude problem. He's a nice kid. He's never been a bragger. He was boisterous growing up, but he's never been a nasty lad. I think Kell has always had a bit of a shy side to him."

Kell's stepfather, Terry, has known the new champion since he was 14 months old and was the person responsible for first taking him to the Wincobank Gym. "He was 7 at the time and absolutely loved it," said Terry. "We took him on the Saturday morning and he really enjoyed punching the bags. I then took him back the next Saturday and Brendan made him practice footwork by walking up and down these lines on the floor. Kell's face was sad. He said he didn't want to go no more. I didn't push the lad."

At first, Kell Brook was just another face in the gym. Therefore, his departure, no matter how rash or temporary, mattered not to the Ingles.

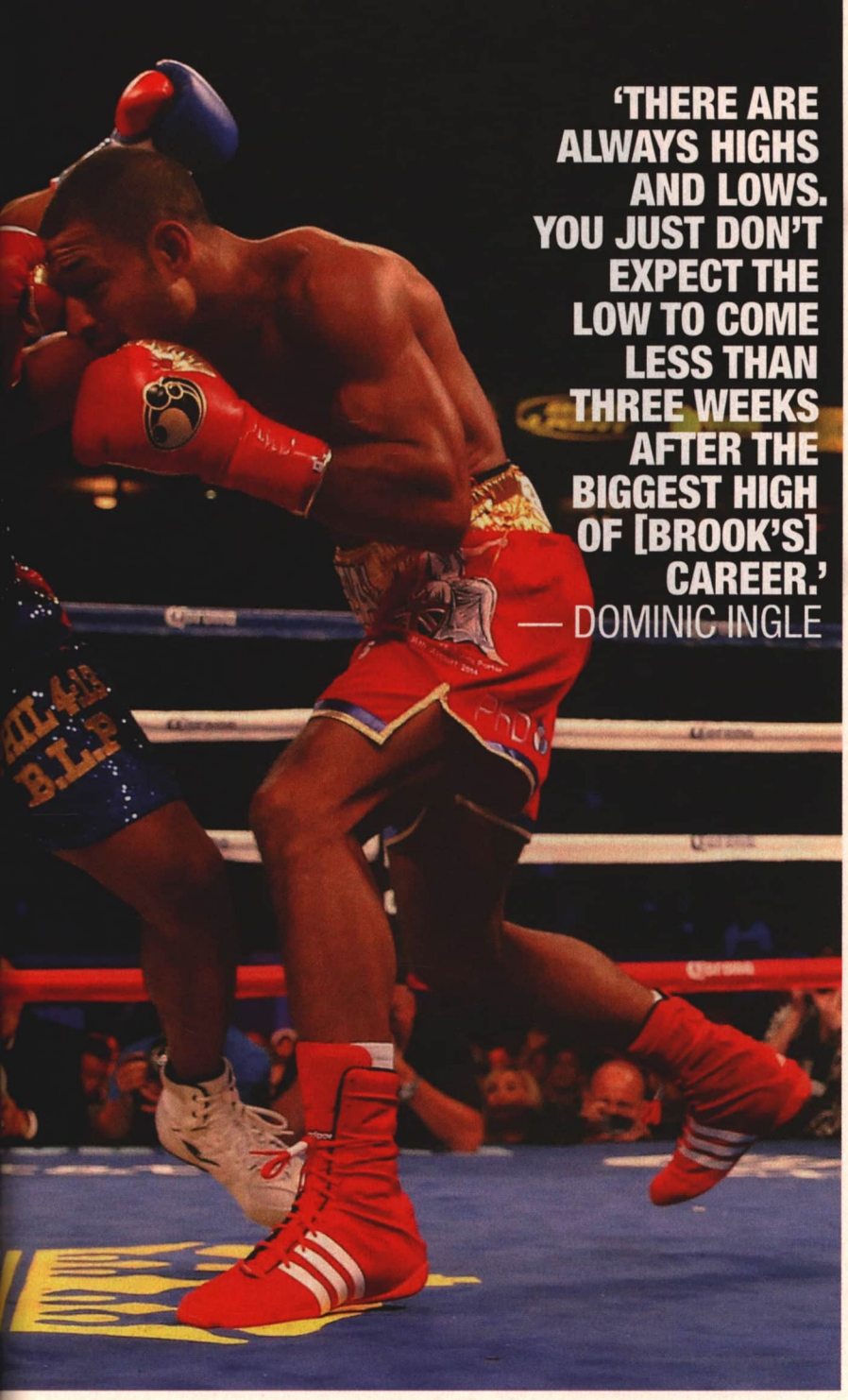
"It's a numbers game," said Dominic. "People walk in and they either like our system or they don't. When he first came in, like most kids, Kell had been watching kung fu movies and 'Rocky.' But, because what we teach is not like kung fu or 'Rocky,' and they have to learn some footwork and some discipline, a lot of kids disappear after a week or two. You explain to them why they've got to do it and explain that 'Rocky' and kung fu movies are just the end result, but kids always want to fast-forward to the fight.

"Kell got bored after a few days and disappeared. It went unnoticed, though, because so many went the same way. We just thought he was another one who couldn't stick it. Then he came back aged 9."

It soon became apparent that Kell Brook was different from other children of the same age. Dave Coldwell, a former Wincobank boxer who'd later go on to train Brook, described the youngster as having "muscles on muscles" and being extremely athletic. His stepfather, meanwhile, said, "He was physically three times stronger than any other child. He'd do the wheelbarrow race at school and other lads would do a quarter of the pitch while Kell was already at the finish line. He had a man's body. He looked like a bodybuilder and it was all natural."

The legend was that Brook, this muscular little cherub, could already hit as hard as a 19-year-old. He'd punch Terry's hand at home and make him recoil in pain. Some days he'd even hang off the back of his stepfather's 7½-ton truck just for fun. A boxing gym, therefore, seemed the most natural environment in which to harness this strength.

"You might find kids with attitude and a bit of a mouth down the gym



'THERE ARE ALWAYS HIGHS AND LOWS. YOU JUST DON'T EXPECT THE LOW TO COME LESS THAN THREE WEEKS AFTER THE BIGGEST HIGH OF [BROOK'S] CAREER.'
— DOMINIC INGLE

Brook (right) looked like the complete package in his victory over Shawn Porter.

but Kell was always soft-spoken and quiet," recalled Coldwell. "He was a genuinely nice kid. That's why he stood out so much. In the ring, though, his personality changed. He came alive. He'd be doing backflips and all sorts. And he'd do it smooth. You'd see some kids try it and they'd look awkward, messy and land heavily. Kell would land light on his feet. He was a natural athlete in every sense of the word."

"When he first came to the gym he was very, very shy," said former 154- and 160-pound world title challenger Ryan Rhodes, another Wincobank star. "To be fair, you didn't even know Kell was about. He used to be in corners doing his own thing on the bags. He wouldn't get involved when we were all in the ring doing flips or whatever. We never saw much of Kell until he started getting that bit of confidence."

Once he found his confidence, however, there seemed no stopping Brook.

"His trick was walking on his hands," said Ingle. "He'd walk on his hands the length of the gym and back. He wasn't particularly good at anything else, but he could walk on his hands and he had muscles."

His boxing prowess was irrelevant at this stage. More important to Ingle was his dedication to the sport and his willingness to return to the gym. "He came in with four other kids and they were the ones who stuck with it and could've done something," he said. "He was probably the least talented of the five but he had the most stable background. His dad just kept bringing him and made him go at times when he probably didn't want to go."

When he wasn't punching bags in corners or walking across the gym on his hands, a young Brook would typically stand by the side of the ring and watch "Prince" Naseem Hamed, his gym mate and world featherweight champion, go through his paces on the pads. Often Brook would be mesmerized by the sight of his hero just inches from where he stood. "Half of the time you'd have to tell Kell to get away from there and get on with his own training," said Ingle. "He'd seen [Hamed] on the TV and couldn't believe he was now training in the same gym as him. He was starstruck. He'd always ask about Naz and listen to stories about him."

The Naz template was embellished on his psyche. And though Brook lost the first three amateur bouts of his boxing career, he was hell-bent on emulating his hero and becoming a professional world champion. "Early on in his amateur career he

was so nervous," said Rhodes. "He started shaking off those nerves and realized he had a talent when he was about 14 or 15. He believed in his ability then. It was all about confidence with Kell."

Confidence grew further once he turned professional in 2004 and pieced together consecutive victories. Better still, after hooking up with Coldwell, he won the British welterweight title in his 17th fight. It was a belt he'd successfully defend four times.

"I loved training him," said Coldwell, "but the thing with Kell, especially back then, was he had big issues with his weight and discipline. His weight would be great come Friday, but then I wouldn't see him until Monday and his weight would balloon. He'd put on a lot of weight very easily. You couldn't let him out of your sight.

"But he was great to train because he always listened and wanted to improve. Something we often talked about was him one day beating the top Americans in America. That's why it was so nice to see him win the title against Shawn Porter in America."

Rhodes, an established pro and European champion in his own right, sparred a lot with Brook during the early years. "I've never sparred anybody with as good timing as Kell," he said. "He is a puncher but not a banger. The key with Kell is his timing. In a split-second he'll catch you and you won't see it coming. There aren't many fighters who can put opponents down with jabs. But, since he won the British title, I think he's put four fighters down with countering jabs. It's like a right hand."

Brook returned to the Ingle gym after snaring the British title and, as he shimmied closer to world title contention, added the scalps of Matthew Hatton, Carson Jones and Vyacheslav Senchenko to his perfect resume. It wasn't until his 33rd professional fight, though, that he landed the world title shot he'd for so long craved. Fights with Devon Alexander, then IBF champion, fell by the wayside due to injuries and postponements before Shawn Porter came along and defeated Alexander, thus presenting Brook with a new target.

Sixteen weeks of hard training ensued. The first four were used to shed weight and get his mind on the job and the next 12 were used to whip the challenger into the best shape of his life. All in all, Brook and Ingle spent six weeks in Fuerteventura, Spain, and three weeks in Las Vegas and California. No stone was left unturned. Neither boxer nor coach had a summer holiday.

"On paper, I saw it as a 60/40 fight in Porter's favor because of the fact it was in America with two American judges," admitted Ingle. "Porter had also fought at a higher level and was coming off two good wins. But,

Brook was stabbed 19 days after the biggest night of his career.

LIFE-CHANGING MONTH

A lot happened to new IBF welterweight titleholder Kell Brook between Aug. 16 and Sept. 12. Here's a look:

Aug. 16: Brook takes the IBF welterweight title from Shawn Porter by a unanimous decision in Carson, Calif.

Aug. 20: It is speculated that his next fight, and first defense of his world title, will take place on Dec. 6 in Sheffield.

Aug. 23: Brook flies to Tenerife, Spain, for a vacation with his pregnant wife, Lindsey.

Sept. 3: Rumors grow that a fight between Brook and Amir Khan is being discussed for Wembley Stadium in May 2015.

Sept. 4: Brook is stabbed in the leg at approximately 6 a.m. on Thursday morning in an apartment complex in Golf del Sur, Tenerife. He undergoes a 90-minute operation in Santa Cruz.

Sept. 5: He claims in a press statement issued by his promoter, Matchroom Sport, that he was the victim of an "unprovoked attack."

Sept. 8: A wounded Brook returns home to Sheffield.

Sept. 12: Brook finally breaks his silence and speaks to the Daily Mail of London. "I was getting hit by a machete," he said. "There was so much blood spurting out … I could see death."

despite all that, I fully expected Kell to find a way to win."

The game plan, Ingle said, was simple in its construction. It had to be. Brook works best when he's given a basic set of instructions, you see. So Ingle told his charge it was likely Porter would jump on him in the first four rounds and try to discourage him, and that all Brook had to do by way of response was nullify the American's advances. Tie him up, hold him. Whatever it took. Then he was asked to push him off and punish him with straight shots and quick combinations. This would, they felt, consequently lead to Porter lunging in and getting reckless. When this happened, Brook was advised to either be well out of range or to step in close enough to watch Porter's retaliatory hooks fly over his head and shoulders. Simple.

"Porter couldn't get anything off," said Ingle. "A lot of people said Kell needed to learn to fight inside to beat Porter – even Kell's dad thought that – but why would he fight to the other guy's advantage? That's like telling Shawn Porter he has to stand off and box Kell to beat him. The plan was never to fight on the inside. The plan was to nullify Porter and work to Kell's strengths.

"I remember hearing Porter say all Kell had was a left-right. Yes, Kell has got a very good left-right and the best shot in boxing is the jab. Now, if I was fighting a fighter with a very good jab, I'd be thinking I had a problem. I said after four rounds Porter would run out of ideas and after six he'd start losing confidence and retreat. That's what happened."

Kell's mother traveled to California to see her boy lift the world championship but refused to watch the fight itself. She waited outside with her hands clasped together and wished for good news.

"I don't normally go," she said, "but I really thought he needed his family there for this one. In fact, he asked me to come and watch him. I said, 'Please, Kell, I can't.' He accepted my reasons but wanted me there at least.

"I sat outside praying the whole time. I always pray when he boxes. I pray for his health. I pray that I don't end up in a hospital with him."

The feared image of her baby boy stricken in hospital would, ironically, have nothing to do with boxing – that dangerous pastime at which he'd excelled for 20 years - nor his IBF world title fight against the fearsome Shawn Porter. Instead, nineteen days after winning the belt via majority decision, Brook found himself recovering from a 12-inch gash produced by a machete, his boxing career in the balance. It was perhaps then, while laid up in a hospital bed, that he realised the rules of the Wincobank gym were more than just boxing lessons. They were life lessons.

Floyd Mayweather Jr. did a better job with Marcos Maidana in the ring than he did answering questions about violence against women.

'MONEY' MANIA

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. DOMINATED **MARCOS MAIDANA** IN THEIR REMATCH BUT THE REAL DRAMA TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE THE RING

By **Ron Borges**

Somehow it seems whenever Floyd Mayweather Jr. boxes there is more talk about his next opponent than the man he's fighting. On Sept. 13, he reminded us why.

Mayweather showed against Marcos Maidana that for him rematches are merely continuations of what preceded them: victories slightly less difficult to achieve the second time around. That might be why during fight week there was more interest in asking him questions about Manny Pacquiao and the domestic abuse case of the NFL's Ray Rice than the man with whom he exchanged punches.

Mayweather would've been better served avoiding the questions about Rice, which led to trouble. And while he teased us once again about the possibility of a long-awaited showdown with Pacquiao, in the end he seemed inclined to leave that never-ending drama alone.

Maidana was not so lucky. Mayweather didn't leave him alone, but instead boxed him into a hypnotic state in which for 12 rounds the Argentine seemed to be pursuing an apparition at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

This was only the second time in his career Mayweather granted a rematch. And, as he did 12 years earlier with Jose Luis Castillo, he won easily by outboxing a frustrated opponent. Castillo caused Mayweather problems in their first meeting but posed none in their 2002 rematch and the same was true of Maidana. The fight had been dubbed "Mayhem" for promotional purposes but Mayweather was involved in little of that unless you believed his claim that Maidana bit him late in the eighth round.

The rematch itself was a result of two things. The first was the absence of a more attractive and sellable alternative short of Pacquiao. The second was that Maidana had given a surprisingly

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Maidana put Mayweather down in the 10th round but not by legal means.

good account of himself in May, roughing up Mayweather enough to bloody his lip and cut him over the right eye as the result of a head butt while landing 221 punches, according to CompuBox statistics. That was the highest connect total of any opponent in the 37 previous Mayweather fights tracked by CompuBox and some felt it was a sign the 37-year-old was slipping.

Age gets us all and this is never more true than inside a boxing ring. Reflexes slow and vulnerability rises, two things Mayweather contends have yet to happen to him. Of course Maidana disputed Mayweather's faith in himself before the rematch and seemed to have some statistical evidence to support his argument, although as it turned out, numbers sometimes lie.

The Wall Street Journal, which lives and dies by numbers, did a study before the fight of Mayweather's previous 11 matches, dating back to 2006, to determine whether there was any quantifiable sign of slippage. What it found was yes ... or maybe.

According to the WSJ, Maidana's 221 landed punches in the first fight were nearly 100 more than any Mayweather opponent over the past eight years, the most since Oscar De La Hoya hit him 122 times in his 2007 split-decision loss to Mayweather. In addition, the WSJ pointed out, a more flat-footed Mayweather had been hit more and more his last four fights, each opponent landing over 100 punches inside his once-impregnable defense.

Maidana's connect rate in the first fight was an unusually high 26 percent, a result of his roughhouse style on the inside and Mayweather's decision to spend an inordinate amount of time with his back on the ropes or against the turnbuckles. This convinced Maidana that he'd found the key to unlock Mayweather's mastery.

"I noticed that being aggressive and attacking him is what makes him uncomfortable," Maidana said through a translator before the fight. "The way to counter his defensive moves with the shoulder [roll] and the arms and all that is to hit him there. I'm going to hit him in the shoulder. I'm going to hit him in the arms. Come eighth, ninth round, he's going to be so tired from all the punches he's not going to be able to defend himself anymore.

"When I was able to pressure him and get him on the ropes and make him fight, I did very, very well. Whenever he moved, that's when I had problems. This fight, I want him to stand and fight like a man."

Mayweather did not. Instead, acknowledging Maidana's strengths, he moved like the consummate boxer he is, spending the first round almost exclusively in the center of the ring. The result was that Maidana landed only two punches, a precursor to what was to come. By the end of what became a unanimous decision for Mayweather, Maidana had landed only 128 punches, 93 fewer than their first meeting. His connect percentage was a bit lower at 22 percent but only one punch – a solid right in the final moment of Round 3 – seemed to affect Mayweather.

Mayweather (47-0, 26 KOs) was so effective slowing the pace that he also slowed himself, landing only 166 punches (64 fewer than the first fight) while connecting on a razor-sharp 51 percent of the 326 he threw (246 fewer than the flailing Maidana launched). What this all means is subject to debate; what was not is that Mayweather was the master in the ring once again.

Judges Dave Moretti and John McKaie scored the bout 116-111 and judge Guido Cavalleri had it closer at 115-112, which seemed a reach. Not even people named Maidana could make much of an argument for him, although Mayweather was clearly underwhelmed by his own performance.

"I give myself a C, C-," Mayweather said. "I'm better than

MAYWEATHER-MAIDANA: I VS. II

A comparison of the punch statistics and scoring from the two fights between Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Marcos Maidana reveals some interesting things. You'll notice that the volume of punches went down for both fighters in all categories. The same with connect percentages for both fighters in total and power punches. The jab percentages went up. Also, Mayweather won 23 of the 36 rounds on the scorecards in both fights even though he was more dominating in the second one.

PUNCH STATISTICS

	MAY 3, 2014	SEPT. 13, 2014
Mayweather total punches	230 of 426 (54%)	166 of 326 (51%)
Maidana total punches	221 of 858 (26%)	128 of 572 (22%)
Mayweather jabs	52 of 152 (34%)	64 of 149 (43%)
Maidana jabs	36 of 318 (11%)	41 of 237 (17%)
Mayweather power punches	178 of 274 (65%)	102 of 177 (58%)
Maidana power punches	185 of 540 (34%)	87 of 335 (26%)

SCORING

May 3: Mayweather by majority decision – 117-111 Mayweather (Burt Clements), 116-112 Mayweather (Dave Moretti), 114-114 (Michael Pernick).

Sept. 13: Mayweather by unanimous decision – 116-111 Mayweather (John McKaie), 116-111 (Dave Moretti), 115-112 (Guido Cavalleri).

STATISTICS COURTESY OF COMPUBOX

that. I got hit with some shots I shouldn't be hit with but that comes with the sport."

He wasn't hit that often. Maidana (35-5, 31 KOs) pursued him relentlessly but found him far less than he had in May, when he caused no end of problems in the first six rounds. The rematch quickly became an extension of the final five of the first fight, ones Mayweather easily controlled. The only difference in Mayweather's demeanor came in the days leading up to the fight, when he seemed all of his 37 years.

Perhaps it was ennui or the result of the latest set of distractions swirling around him. Not only did he face constant questions about Pacquiao and promoter Bob Arum's claims that rival cable networks HBO and Showtime had agreed to a structure to make it happen if Mayweather would simply agree, he also had to deal with an assertion that he couldn't read from his former BFF, rapper-turned-entrepreneur and fledgling boxing promoter 50 Cent. Fifty challenged him to read a single page of a Harry Potter book, claiming he'd give Mayweather $750,000 to donate to charity if he could do it.

The embarrassment that caused became obvious when Mayweather's camp released a video of him reading from a teleprompter while filming a commercial. The hits did not stop there.

The same week Mayweather was served with a lawsuit filed by his ex-fiancee, Shantel Jackson, claiming he'd abused her physically and mentally during their relationship. Then, four days before the fight, Mayweather was asked his thoughts on the suspension of Rice on domestic abuse charges. He said the penalty should not have been increased from a two-game suspension to an indefinite one because "worse things go on" inside people's homes every day.

That ill-advised statement forced him to do what he did not against Maidana: backpedal.

"I'm not perfect," Mayweather said. "I'm human. If I offended anyone, I apologize."

Soon after, Mayweather took a more aggressive tack, dismissing the mountain of distractions around him by insisting his focus was on Maidana.

"Nothing can steer me the wrong way," Mayweather said. "I don't focus on clown stuff. That's for the circus. I got to where I got to be being smart, making smart moves and doing what's best for Floyd Mayweather."

That's what he did against Maidana, spending far more time in the center of the ring where Maidana struggled to connect and moving quickly off the ropes this time whenever his back touched them. Those tactics left Maidana as frustrated as his 45 predecessors, arguing after the fight that he'd won when it was obvious he had not.

"He kept holding and pushing but the referee did nothing about it," Maidana complained. "The referee would do nothing about it but take a point from me. I thought I did enough to win the fight."

Referee Kenny Bayless did take a point from Maidana late in the fight and often failed to cite Mayweather for incessant holding but he would

Mayweather celebrated for the 47th time in 47 fights.

have had to take a bushel of points from the champion to even the score because Mayweather controlled space and distance the entire night.

He was on his toes and circling left repeatedly in the early rounds to avoid Maidana's wild but effective overhand right, while landing the right-hand leads that are so much a part of his arsenal. Maidana stalked him with limited success until Mayweather went flat-footed and to the ropes late in the third round, putting himself briefly in the crosshairs.

In the final seconds of that round, which had been a good one for Mayweather, Maidana suddenly lashed him with a right hand at close quarters, stunning the champion as the bell sounded. It was the only solid punch he would land all night.

In the end, Maidana had the same troubles he had in their first meeting, misjudging distance and smothering his punches by getting too close to Mayweather to extend his arms, thereby robbing himself of his power. Maidana admitted before the fight that that had been a problem and swore things would be different. They were not.

Finally, as Mayweather was mugging Maidana with his right glove during a clinch late in Round 8, the champion jumped backward and claimed Maidana bit his hand. Replays were inconclusive but clearly something had gone on.

"My fingers were numb," Mayweather said. "I could only use my [right] hand. I realized he bit me."

Maidana denied that but pointed out Mayweather had covered his mouth with his glove, making it difficult to breath, and suggested perhaps the champion put his glove inside his mouth. Clearly irked, Mayweather came out aggressively in Round 9, catching Maidana with sharp jabs and enough counters to blunt his attack. As the fight grew chippier, Bayless finally deducted a point from Maidana for pushing Mayweather to the canvas as the latter held him for about the 100th time. But by that point the outcome was clear.

Maidana had been transformed into a raging but hopeless bull, charging the Matador of Mayhem but seldom locating anything but the ends of his stinging punches. After the final bell tolled, there were few questions to ask about Maidana. So Mayweather's inquisitors returned to a familiar topic: Manny Pacquiao.

Mayweather seemed to open the door slightly to a possible matchup with Pacquiao early in the week when he said, "Anything can happen." But when he was done with Maidana he seemed equally through with Pacquiao once again.

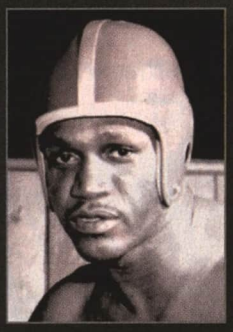
"Manny Pacquiao needs to focus on the guy in front of him (junior welterweight champion Chris Algieri)," Mayweather said. "Once he gets past him, he can look to the future. If the Pacquiao fight happens, it happens. You can ask the same questions and get the same answers."

Mayweather was then asked if it was realistic to think that a fight with Pacquiao could finally be made and his response was telling.

"What's realistic is I'm 47-0," he said. "I call my own shots."

When he does, don't count on him calling Manny Pacquiao. RING

NO PRETENDER



THE ONETIME OPPPONENT OF CASSIUS CLAY WAS THE BEST FOOTBALL PLAYER-TURNED-BOXER

By **Thomas Hauser**

A unique figure in the world of boxing passed into history on Sept. 1 when Charlie Powell died.

Powell starred in football, basketball, baseball and track at San Diego High School. After graduation, he signed a contract with the old St. Louis Browns, intent on making the major leagues. But he gave up baseball after one season to join the San Francisco 49ers in the NFL.

Powell played five seasons as a defensive end with the 49ers (1952-1953 and 1955-1957) and two more with the Oakland Raiders in the fledgling AFL (1960-1961). He also boxed.

Powell was a serious fighter. This wasn't a Mark Gastineau or Ed "Too Tall" Jones type of foray. His first pro fight was a draw against Fred Taylor on March 7, 1953. Then he returned to the gridiron. But football players were paid poorly in the 1950s. The average NFL player made less than $10,000 a season. So, after the 1953 campaign, Powell decided to concentrate on boxing. He fought 14 times over the next 16 months before rejoining the 49ers in autumn 1955. He also sat out the 1958 and 1959 seasons to concentrate on the sweet science.

Powell suffered from poor

The burly Charlie Powell might've intimidated Cassius Clay beforehand but was overwhelmed in the ring.

management during his ring career. In big fights, he was always the opponent. Also, as he told Earl Gustkey of the Los Angeles Times in 2000, "A lot of people told me I was making a mistake playing in the NFL. And they were right in the sense that you don't need the same muscles in boxing you use in football."

Still, Powell rose as high as No. 4 in THE RING's heavyweight rankings. The high point of his fistic career came on March 4, 1959, when he knocked out Nino Valdes (then the second-ranked heavyweight in the world) in eight rounds.

But Powell's most memorable night in boxing came on January 24, 1963, when he fought a 16-0 heavyweight named Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. Clay was coming off a fourth-round knockout of Archie Moore and was attracting national media attention, although there were doubts that he would ever be an elite fighter.

Mort Sharnik, who covered Clay-Powell for Sports Illustrated, attended the pre-fight weigh-in and told this writer, "As usual Cassius was talking all that jive, making predictions, and doing routines with his greeting-card poetry. He was very imaginative and he was talking about Powell as if he were a child fantasizing. You know, 'I'll do this to that old monster; he's Frankenstein; I'll turn him inside out.' And that's fine until you meet Frankenstein. Now he was face to face with Charlie Powell at the weigh-in. Powell was very big, very strong, much more muscular than Clay. Cassius looked at him and, all of a sudden, a touch of reality began to creep in. They started rapping at one another. Cassius seemed a little apprehensive. Powell's brother, Art, who was a football player, he was there, and he's a talker too. Finally, Cassius got really agitated. He'd taken his shirt off for the weigh-in, his undershirt, and then he put it back on backwards, which of course Powell pointed out. So Clay fumed and fussed and announced, 'I'm going,' and he opened the door and stomped into a broom closet."

But fight night belonged to Clay. He knocked Powell out in the third round.

"When he first hit me," Powell said afterward, "I thought to myself, 'I can take two of those to get in one of my own.' But in a little while, I found out I was getting dizzier and dizzier every time he hit me, and he hurt. Clay throws punches so easily you don't realize how much they shock you until it's too late."

Meanwhile, Sharnik had an epiphany of his own.

"It was at that fight," he later recounted, "that I recognized Clay was an extraordinary fighter. In the second round, Powell hit him [with] a shot to the solar plexus, a right hand underneath and a left hand on top. The shot to the solar plexus sunk in, it seemed, up to his elbow. Clay was hurt, but he controlled everything. Outside of that grunt, that oomph, when a man is hit – and physically, you can't do anything about that; it's compression of air – outside of that, you saw nothing. He sagged for a split second, but there was no change in his facial muscles. And when Powell went to follow up, Clay incredibly just fired back. Before the round was over, he had Powell cut over the eye and he stopped him one round later."

Powell retired from boxing in 1965 with a record of 25-11-3, with 17 knockouts. In his final years, he suffered from dementia. The combination of football and boxing had taken a toll. But no player in NFL history was a better fighter.

He's part of the Muhammad Ali legend now. RING

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book ("Thomas Hauser on Boxing: Another Year Inside the Sweet Science") was published by the University of Arkansas Press.

The presence of boxers in movies was more common when Archie Moore appeared in "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" (with Eddie Hodges) in 1960.

FIGHTING IN TINSELTOWN

BOXERS AND HOLLYWOOD ONCE HAD A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BUT THESE DAYS FIGHTERS FACE A MUCH TOUGHER ROUTE TO THE SILVER SCREEN

By **Don Stradley**

Boxing fans probably recognized Victor Ortiz's face at the local cineplex this summer. Like Tommy Morrison and Antonio Tarver before him, Ortiz benefited from Sylvester Stallone's connection to boxing and found himself cast in "The Expendables 3," the latest entry in Stallone's popular franchise.

The presence of a boxer is rare at a time when a movie is more likely to feature well-known figures from mixed martial arts, hip-hop, or professional wrestling. At one time, though, you couldn't watch a movie or TV show without seeing some bent-nosed type trying to look comfortable while reciting dialogue. In fact, the list of fighters who have ventured into acting is considerably longer than any similar list of athletes from other sports and includes nearly every heavyweight champion of note. It was as if acting served as a rite of passage for fighters who'd reached a certain level of fame.

A full decade before the famous "HOLLYWOODLAND" sign was erected on Mount Lee (the "land" was dropped in 1949), such boxing champions as James J. Jeffries, Jack Johnson and Jess Willard had already loaned their rugged faces to the rapidly blossoming entertainment form known as "the flickers." By the 1920s, when both boxing and the movie industry reached unprecedented heights, there was no delay in bringing Jack Dempsey's rough-hewn persona to the big screen. Former hobo Dempsey took to Hollywood like a hungry dog running wild through a meat market. He starred in several films, mingled with Hollywood's elite and married actress Estelle Taylor. Dempsey even underwent a nose job and frequent eyebrow pluckings. The standard wisdom is that his time in California dampened his killer instinct and adversely affected his ring career, but that didn't stop other fighters from following Dempsey into Tinseltown.

"Think about it," said Tarver, who had a brush with stardom in "Rocky Balboa" (2006). "There's so much drama in what we do. Even if it's just grabbing a microphone at a press conference, the spotlight is always on us. Acting is an extension of that, especially when you consider we have to reinvent ourselves for every fight. We are literally a different person each time we step in the ring, changing ourselves depending on what's in front of us. I hope my man Ortiz enjoyed it as much as I did. A man feels elevated when he transitions from one field to another and finds success. Plus, those residual checks come in handy."

Believe it or not, fighters were once considered romantic figures. This was partly due to so many major fights in the 1930s and '40s taking place at Hollywood Legion Stadium and other popular venues in Los Angeles, where the crowds were usually rife with showbiz types. Actresses such as Lupe Velez and Mae West were often on the arm of one contender or another. With fighters hobnobbing in Hollywood, it was inevitable that they might try acting. Rocky Graziano, Lou Nova, Art Aragon and Max Baer found some success as actors. To a lesser degree, so did Joe Louis and Henry Armstrong. Jack Roper worked regularly for many years as an extra, usually uncredited. Abe Simon and Tony Galento, who had faces you won't find in most casting offices, were often cast to stand around and look tough. Jake LaMotta too. The uncrowned champ of fighters-turned-actors may have been "Slapsie" Maxie Rosenbloom. In an acting career that lasted from 1933 to 1969, Rosenbloom compiled a whopping 76 acting credits, most often in comedic parts.

Hollywood relished these Damon Runyon characters come to life but the romance dissolved with the revelation of boxing's link to organized crime.

The connection between fighters and Hollywood has ebbed and flowed in recent years, with the emphasis on ebb. Veteran L.A. talent agent Jack Gilardi believes boxers face a nearly insurmountable challenge when it comes to acting.

"Whether it's English or Spanish, a lot of them can't talk," said Gilardi, who has worked in Hollywood for decades and is still part of International Creative Management Partners. "I helped Fernando Vargas get a couple of movies, but his English wasn't great, and he mumbled. Even very young fighters sound bad. They don't realize it, because they're only around other fighters, but they can't speak."

Slurred speech is one hurdle. The sheer number of actors vying for roles is another. "There's so much competition," said Eddie Montalvo, who once worked as an assistant casting agent at Christopher Gray Casting in L.A. and now manages fighters. "Look at this new movie about Roberto Duran ("Hands of Stone"). A lot of fighters thought they'd be in that movie, but no. Having the right people around you will help open doors but it's hard."

Those who do get work may find it's not as easy as it looks. Former women's champion Christy Martin was at the height of her fame when she found herself on an episode of "Roseanne." "It's such a different realm," Martin told THE RING. "I was scared to death. They had to get me an acting coach because I was so nervous and tight. I think I'd do a lot better now but they always call you for these things when you're young and aren't ready. Then you freeze up and panic and they never call you again."

Even the most loquacious, charismatic fighter of them all found acting to be a difficult world to conquer. After portraying himself in "The Greatest" (1977), Muhammad Ali starred in "Freedom Road" (1979), a four-hour NBC TV drama. Ali allegedly scored a million-dollar payday, far more than most actors would get for a TV movie, but United Press International movie critic Joan Hanauer expressed the feeling of most viewers when she wrote, "As an actor, he is not the greatest."

Ali wasn't driven to be a movie star. Not only was he more famous than any actor of the day, but he objected to Hollywood's growing reliance on sex and profanity. Ali was particularly critical of his ring rival Ken Norton's role in "Mandingo" (1975), a film that was controversial in its time for graphic bedroom scenes and violence.

"Norton wanted to be a star," said Gilardi, who helped the fighter break into films. "Unfortunately it never happened. I thought he had a chance. Ken was a terrific guy. We just never found the right thing."

Gilardi also handled O.J. Simpson at the time and recalls Simpson's acting career sputtering until he appeared in a series of funny commercials for Hertz car rentals. "Norton never had the right break like Simpson, so he went back to getting banged around in the ring. Could he have been a bigger star? That's an impossible question to answer."

The 1980s saw another boxing boom, and not surprisingly, another batch of fighters went into acting. Results were mixed. Marvelous Marvin Hagler appeared in a few low-budget Italian features but to say he had anything resembling an "acting career" would be an exaggeration. Thomas Hearns and Sugar Ray Leonard tried acting too. They got nowhere. Others from the post-Ali period, including Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini, Randall "Tex" Cobb, Mark Breland and Vito Antuofermo, found acting jobs at a steadier rate.

FIVE FIGHTERS WITH SERIOUS ACTING CHOPS

Jersey Joe Walcott in "The Harder They Fall" (1956): Walcott showed a nice mix of gentleness and strength as a boxing trainer. Max Baer also was in this film but Walcott is the one to watch.

Archie Moore in "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" (1960): Moore's portrayal of Huck's friend Jim was considered Oscar-worthy by some critics and is generally regarded as the best performance ever given by a boxer.

Sonny Liston in "Moonfire" (1970): Liston was surprisingly relaxed onscreen, playing a trucker battling bikers and Nazis on the Mexican border.

Curtis Cokes in "Fat City" (1972): In a movie about boxing, Cokes didn't play a fighter. Yet, with a small amount of screen time, he gave a nuanced, understated performance.

Jack O'Halloran in "Farewell My Lovely" (1975): O'Halloran played Moose Malloy, the thug who hires Philip Marlowe to find his ex-girlfriend. In a movie full of good performances, Roger Ebert singled out O'Halloran's Moose as "the most touching."

Victor Ortiz (bottom row, far right) poses with other cast members of "Expendables 3."

"We couldn't do anything with Leonard," said Gilardi. "His popularity decreased. When a fighter's popularity goes, so does he. Fighters have approached my office over the years – I can't remember half the names – but when a guy is no longer popular, and he can't speak, what can I do? No agent is a genius."

Martin, who signed to appear in movies that were never made or in some cases made without her, suspects Hollywood has a negative attitude about fighters. She advises others to approach the business cautiously and to acknowledge that they'll be working in someone else's field. "You might be a street-smart cat," she said, "but they'll probably think you're a dumb jock." Nothing, Martin said, can prepare fighters for the repetition or long hours involved in a movie or TV production. Tarver, meanwhile, recommends fighters hire an agent and take acting lessons. "You'll still need a stroke of luck," he said. "Or a lightning bolt."

Tarver admits he hasn't pursued acting since his own stroke of luck – the role of Mason Dixon went to him because, according to Stallone, Roy Jones wouldn't return phone calls – but he plans to act again after he retires from fighting. "I don't have my finger on the pulse of Hollywood. I don't know how I'm perceived there, but I hope to do more dramas. I don't want to just play boxers. I want to learn the art and be taken seriously and hopefully be an asset. I don't want to just be a side piece. "

Montalvo offers some basic tips for fighters with acting dreams. "Be as transparent as possible and remember that you're a commodity. Get in there and be seen. But while you self-market, you'll need someone to negotiate for you. Fighters think producers will say, 'Wow, an ex-champ!' and hire them. It's not like that at all." Gilardi concurs: "Fighters think their popularity will make up for their shortcomings but being a champion really doesn't mean anything here."

In a reflection of how boxing's popularity has grown in other countries, top fighters still get acting work overseas. Before devoting himself to politics, Manny Pacquiao enjoyed several years as an action star in the Philippines. Nonito Donaire starred in a movie there last year too. Joe Calzaghe just finished work on a movie in the U.K. Even Nikolai Valuev landed some bit parts in Russian movies. But with so much money at stake, contemporary Hollywood directors would simply rather work with a professional actor than gamble on an American fighter's ability to learn lines and emote.

It helps if your name is Mike Tyson. German director Werner Herzog has announced that Tyson will be in his next project, a dark comedy called "Vernon God Little." Granted, it's not exactly a major Hollywood production but Tyson deserves kudos for taking a role that will be more demanding than his funny cameos in "The Hangover" movies. Cynics might say Tyson is just another of Herzog's casting stunts, as the director has a history of hiring non-actors, including the institutionalized. Still, Herzog has a way of coaxing good performances out of his unlikely stars, and as we saw in Tyson's one man stage show, he's willing to work hard.

Ortiz has another movie on the way, a boxing drama called "Southpaw." Whether or not Ortiz's sudden interest in acting heralds a new wave of fighters jumping into films is unknown, but our guess is that fighters will continue to appear in movies, for the glamor of Hollywood is as alluring now as it was in Dempsey's day. But unless they are as famous as Tyson or can catch the eye of Sly Stallone, they might want to heed this advice from Jack Gilardi: "Learn to speak."

Are Carl Frampton (left) and Scott Quigg – both celebrating victories – on a collision course?

122-POUND HOTBED

FRAMPTON AND QUIGG GIVE THE U.K. A STRONG 1-2 PUNCH AMONG JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

By **Gareth A Davies**

There is a rich seam of junior featherweights on this side of the pond featuring Carl Frampton, fresh off his terrific, coming-of-age victory over Kiko Martinez to win the IBF title, and contender Scott Quigg.

Frampton, who seized the belt on Sept. 6 in his hometown of Belfast, Northern Ireland, joined Guillermo Rigondeaux (RING, WBA and WBO) and Leo Santa Cruz (WBC) as 122-pound titleholders. Quigg, of Bury, England, stopped Stephane Jamoye on Sept. 13 to become the WBA's top contender.

A unification fight will be upon us soon and the winner will crow loudly that he has bragging rights to the division (or at least that they should be fighting Rigondeaux for the No. 1 spot). Another possibility is Frampton-Quigg, which would be an enormous fight in the U.K.

Shane McGuigan, Frampton's trainer, was elated over Frampton's performance against Martinez in a brutal 12-round battle with the relentless, teak-tough Spaniard on Belfast's Titanic Causeway. Frampton won a one-sided decision.

"It was best performance I have seen from Carl," he said. "It ticked all the boxes. It would probably be the same [strategy] with Leo Santa Cruz. Different with Scott Quigg. We'd probably have to go out there looking for him.

"Once Quigg feels Carl's power, he's going on the back foot. So then we will have to change our game plan. Rigondeaux, same thing. We'll have to go looking for him."

Great confidence, indeed.

Frampton could go on to become a legend in Irish boxing circles, reckoned his promoter, Barry McGuigan (Shane's father), after the young Ulsterman claimed his first world title.

Frampton (19-0, 13 KOs) will have learned much from this encounter.

"This kid could end up being the best Irish fighter who ever lived," Barry McGuigan said.

McGuigan, the former world featherweight champion, added later: "He could go up to featherweight and [junior lightweight] because he knocks out lightweights in the gym. He could move through the weight divisions and there are some great fights out there for him."

Frampton will have five to six months out and is likely to make his first defense against No. 1 IBF challenger Chris Avalos in the first quarter of 2015, with the Odyssey Arena in Belfast the probable venue.

"It was a hard fight, I'm hurt. I have a sore back, sore hands, sore head," Frampton said after the battle with Martinez. "The build-up was massive, it was an amazing night and I'm never going to forget it."

Sixteen thousand fans attended the contest, a sell-out in the open-air, temporary arena.

Frampton's exciting fighting style will rate highly with the television companies and he has a strong following. He has the ability, too. Now it is solely about how he can augment his achievements.

"We're not interested in Guillermo Rigondeaux, the WBA and WBO champion," the elder McGuigan said. "He makes no money and brings no TV. He can't draw 500 Cubans in Miami. This is a business. Don't get me wrong, he's fabulous, but he's an awkward, negative boxer.

"Kiko Martínez is every bit as tough a fighter as Leo Santa Cruz, the WBC champion, because he is relentless, takes a good shot and is hard to hit on the chin. The wish list is Santa Cruz No. 1, Scott Quigg No. 2, Abner Mares No. 3 and then Jhonny Gonzalez."

Both Mares and Gonzalez campaign at featherweight (126 pounds). Gonzalez is the incumbent WBC titleholder, Mares the WBC's No. 1 challenger.

Intriguingly, Barry McGuigan's close relationship with Frampton stems from a mutual understanding of the backdrop of troubles in Northern Ireland. Frampton, a Protestant, is newly married to a Catholic girl, Christine, whereas McGuigan, born a Catholic, has been married to Protestant Sandra for 32 years. Frampton draws fans from both sides of the sectarian divide.

It is some story.

★

What is it with Spain, boxers and near-death experiences this summer? Just weeks after trainer Jamie Moore was shot in the leg in Marbella, the fight fraternity was rocked by the shocking news that Kell Brook, the current IBF world welterweight champion, had been stabbed once in the thigh while on a night out on the island of Tenerife. The incident happened less than three weeks after he'd defeated America's Shawn Porter to lift the title.

"I used to wonder why people wanted bodyguards around them, but, when you move in different circles and you don't know everybody out there, you can never be too sure," Brook's trainer, Dominic Ingle, told me. "Although he doesn't consider himself a celebrity, people know Kell because they've seen him on TV.

"These people watch him on TV, send him messages on Twitter and think they know him. He's not the type to let it go to his head, either, so he'll talk to anyone when he's out and about. All it takes is for one of these people to dislike him and trouble happens."

It was unclear at press time when Brook will recover and get back into the gym. Ingle added, "It's never good when you've got an injury and getting stabbed is certainly not a good thing. The main concern is that he's alive and not dead. I'd rather he survived and never boxed again than whatever the alternative is."

Meanwhile, former European champion Moore is on the mend following his shooting in early August.

"I'm trying to be positive," he said. "I don't have much feeling or movement in my left foot. Over time I'll get some of the feeling and movement back but it's just a waiting game right now. I'm in tremendous nerve pain.

"The good thing is it wasn't a prolonged ordeal. It was done within five to seven seconds. It's not like I'm going to have big mental scars from it. But it was certainly a big shock and I honestly thought I was going to die. I just feel blessed to be here."

Though quick, memories of the moment he was shot have stayed with Moore. He's not likely to forget them anytime soon.

"There's no reason anyone would ever want to shoot me," he said. "I just thought it was a practical joke. When the first shot was fired, I hit the floor. I then heard him run off. I was lying there thinking, wow, what has just happened? I looked down and saw the blood and tried not to panic. I knew that if I got up and moved around, I'd bleed more. So I stayed very still, got my phone out and rang the ambulance."

His time training former opponent Matthew Macklin in Marbella now seems to have come to an end. He owes it to his concerned family, he says, not to return. Instead, Macklin will train with Manchester's Joe Gallagher for his next fight before meeting with Moore and deciding on their plans going forward.

U.K. TOP 10

1. CARL FROCH
2. KELL BROOK
3. AMIR KHAN
4. CARL FRAMPTON
5. GEORGE GROVES
6. TYSON FURY
7. SCOTT QUIGG
8. JAMES DEGALE
9. JAMIE MCDONNELL
10. PAUL BUTLER

Five more: Tony Bellew, Nathan Cleverly, Martin Murray, Billy Joe Saunders and Andy Lee. (Through fights of Sept. 21, 2014)

George Groves (right) bounced back from his loss to Carl Froch by outpointing Christopher Rebrasse on Sept. 20

★

Britain's 2012 Olympic super-heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua decided in August to leave for Germany and gain priceless experience sparring with reigning world heavyweight king Wladimir Klitschko in preparation for the giant Ukrainian's title defense against Kubrat Pulev, which was pushed back to Nov. 15 after Klitschko was injured. It is a well-trodden path for young heavyweights.

Frankly, such was the intrigue that surrounded Joshua's meeting with Klitschko, they could have sold tickets for the sparring session. The level of interest might've surpassed that of Klitschko's bout with Pulev.

What's more, the sparring session worked on two fronts. It provided Joshua with the chance to get an up-close glimpse of the best heavyweight on the planet and gave Klitschko the opportunity to peer into the future and see what he may well be up against should he stick around for another couple of years.

Joshua's promoter, Eddie Hearn, certainly sees the big lad as the heir apparent. So, too, do many other knowledgeable figures in the game.

Klitschko, perhaps the most knowledgeable of them all, likes to monitor, analyze and get a feel for his rivals at the earliest possible opportunity. And it's likely he would have done just that with "Big Josh."

★

The best way to overcome any great trauma is to confront it head-on and face up to your fears. And while it's tough to say whether super middleweight George Groves' confidence has taken a knock following successive defeats to IBF world champion Carl Froch, he certainly shows no immediate signs of slowing down or turning gun-shy on us.

Quite the contrary, in fact. A return to Wembley on Sept. 20 – this time at the more modest Arena, rather than the 90,000-capacity Stadium – saw Groves not only confront his demons by returning to the scene of the Froch rematch but outpoint Frenchman Christopher Rebrasse.

Groves' old nemesis, meanwhile, seems likely to face another British boxer, James DeGale, in the new year. Speaking to me in August, Hearn, Froch's promoter, revealed, "Carl Froch against Julio Cesar Chavez in Las Vegas now looks unlikely and we are looking for Carl to defend his WBA and IBF titles in London, probably at the O2 Arena, against James DeGale in February."

If it's half as dramatic as the last time Froch faced British opposition, fight fans won't have to wait long to shake their Froch-Groves blues. This could be another one to get the whole of the U.K. talking.

★

Former WBO cruiserweight titleholder Johnny Nelson – now a boxing analyst with broadcast giant Sky Sports, which is owned by Rupert Murdoch of FOX Sports – wasn't pleased when asked to sit ringside in Halle, Germany, and watch hometown hero Marco Huck equal his record of 13 straight world cruiserweight title defenses (between 1999 and 2005).

It wasn't so much the idea of being equaled that hurt the Sheffield man, more the assertion that Huck could have once upon a time defeated him in the ring. That was painful.

"Once I saw [Huck] and realized he was trying to make a big deal out of defending his title 13 times – having never left his country – I thought, 'Yeah, he's matched me but only on paper,'" Nelson, 47, told me when I tried to get to the bottom of whether a return to the ring was any more than a passing flicker of competitiveness returning.

"If you look at it closely, has he really done what I did? It doesn't matter about the level of opponent. I traveled and boxed ex-world champions. I boxed Marcelo Dominguez, who was a former WBC champ. I boxed credible opponents. What they've done with Huck, though, is taken care of him."

Shortly after Huck's win over Mirko Larghetti, Nelson was pressed for his view on the victorious German. It was then that he seized his opportunity.

"When I was out there watching him, I did what many ex-fighters do – I thought, 'Yeah, I'd beat him no problem,'" he said. "It gave me goose bumps. I was so happy when they asked me what I thought. I said I would have knocked him out in my prime and that, if they gave me six months to prepare, I'd beat him today as well.

"I'm not coming back to continue my career. I'm too old for that. But I know I can train for six months and beat Marco Huck."

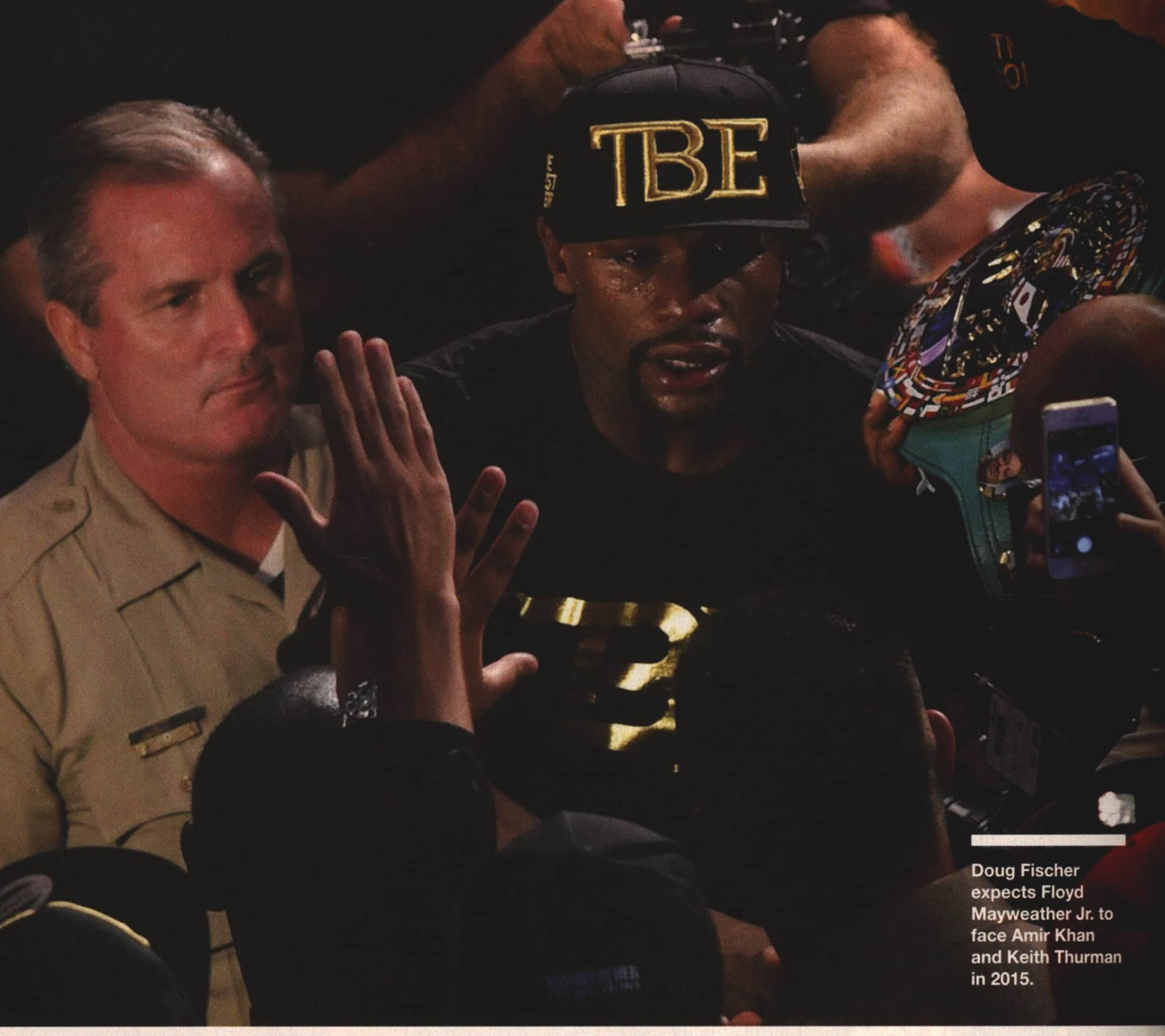
Cynical minds among the media questioned whether Nelson was simply trying to get a rise or play a game.

"I'm deadly serious," he confirmed. "It would be 10 years after I gave the belt up and retired and I will come back and beat the current champion in his 14th defense. It's not about money. I've had a great career and people know I'm doing well financially. They say I'm 47 and an old man but I'm not like Ricky Hatton outside the ring. I keep myself in excellent shape.

"I'm probably 45 percent of what I was when I boxed. But you give me six months and I'll be 90 percent of what I once was. That will be enough to beat Marco Huck and I want to beat him in Germany."

Over to you, Captain Huck. Peter Pan's on his way.

Gareth A Davies is boxing correspondent for The Telegraph, London.



Doug Fischer expects Floyd Mayweather Jr. to face Amir Khan and Keith Thurman in 2015.

BEST OF DOUGIE'S MAILBAG

EXCERPTS FROM THE **RINGTV.COM** EDITOR'S POPULAR COLUMN

By **Doug Fischer**

Since 2001, RingTV.com Editor Doug Fischer has held an ongoing dialog – which occasionally becomes heated debate – with boxing fans from around the world in "Dougie's Mailbag."

Excerpts from Fischer's online column from the previous month appear in the printed edition of THE RING. The following excerpts are from the Sept. 19 and 22 editions of the Monday and Friday mailbag.

HASAN, from England, opined that if Floyd Mayweather Jr. were to face Manny Pacquiao and Gennady Golovkin in his next two fights, the future Hall of Famer could retire knowing he gave the public the fights they wanted and prove his greatness to any skeptics.

Hasan also asked Fischer who will win the following high-profile matchups between U.K. standouts: Billy Joe Saunders vs. Chris Eubank Jr.; Nathan Cleverly vs. Tony Bellew II; James DeGale vs. George Groves II; Mathew Macklin vs. Andy Lee; and Kevin Mitchell vs. Ricky Burns II.

DOUGIE'S REPLY: I agree that Pacquiao and Golovkin would be the perfect final two bouts of Mayweather's career. We will probably get Mayweather vs. Amir Khan and Keith Thurman, which aren't bad fights at all but they aren't huge pay-per-view events (in the U.S.) and they aren't considered legacy-building bouts at the present time. Your U.K. showdowns: Billy Joe Saunders vs. Chris Eubank Jr. – Saunders by close

decision; Nathan Cleverly vs. Tony Bellew II – Bellew by decision; James DeGale vs. George Groves II – DeGale by controversial decision; Mathew Macklin vs. Andy Lee – Lee by come-from-behind TKO; Kevin Mitchell vs. Ricky Burns II – Burns by decision.

KEVIN, from Duluth, Minnesota, asked Fischer who he thought would retire first – Mayweather or Pacquiao – and stay retired.

DOUGIE'S REPLY: If I had to bet on who hangs his gloves up first, I'd put my money on Pacquiao. He was the first to lose his desire to train and fight (after the Antonio Margarito bout in November 2010, in my opinion), he was knocked out cold by his arch rival less than two years ago and I wouldn't be shocked if he lost to a big underdog (Chris Algieri) this November. Plus, he's already got a dozen or so second careers going (from congressman to pro basketball player/coach). Mayweather is 100 percent boxing. Plus, he's trying to get his own promotional company off the ground the way Oscar De La Hoya did 10 years ago. He's going to need to keep fighting in order to have leverage with Showtime (or with HBO if he decides to go back to that side of the street after his Showtime/CBS deal is completed). And at the end of the day, Mayweather has become used to big-time cash flow. If he wants to continue living the "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous," he'll have to keep fighting.

PHIL, from Liverpool, England, asked Fischer if he thinks Alfredo Angulo should retire following the former junior middleweight contender's decision loss to James De La Rosa on the undercard of the Mayweather-Marcos Maidana rematch. Phil added that Angulo has some "limited name value" that could keep him in the sport but he doesn't think the Mexican veteran has "much left in the tank" and would hate to see him brutally stopped in the manner that Juan Manuel Lopez was in his final two bouts.

DOUGIE'S REPLY: I don't think Angulo has anything left in his tank and I absolutely believe that he should retire. If he continues boxing, it will be as a stepping stone for young up-and-comers. If I'm being kind to him – and I want to be because he was such an entertaining fighter and is such a likable guy out of the ring – I'll consider him to be a gatekeeper. But his contender days are over. It was arguably over after the god-awful pounding he absorbed from James Kirkland in November 2011. The drama of being held in an immigration detention center for seven months following the Kirkland loss added emotional and psychological stress to the physical damage he had absorbed. I thought Angulo's deteriorated state was exposed during his 10-round decision win over young Jorge Silva in December 2012. Silva, who was just a kid and had no business fighting at junior middleweight, stung him a few times and legitimately won three, maybe even four, of the 10 rounds. To his credit, Angulo pulled it together for the Erislandy Lara fight, which I thought he had no chance of winning. Angulo proved me and a lot of others wrong by giving Lara hell and coming close to winning before his penchant for eating flush head shots and severely damaged facial tissue did him in during the 10th round. I think the back-to-back 10th-round TKO losses to Lara and Canelo Alvarez took out whatever fight Angulo had in him. He was fighting on pure muscle memory in those final rounds against De La Rosa. The only reason he won the last two rounds (or should have won them) was because the Texan was totally gassed. There's no doubt in my mind that if Angulo continues fighting, he will get starched the way Lopez has in three of his last four bouts.

STEPHEN, from Montreal, asked Fischer if he thinks Freddie Roach will be able to turn Lucian Bute's stumbling career around. He thinks the former IBF super middleweight beltholder looked "damaged mentally" in his last fight, a 12-round unanimous-decision loss to former light heavyweight champ Jean Pascal, and wonders if Roach can help out in that area.

DOUGIE'S REPLY: If anyone can boost Bute's confidence and revamp his career, it's Roach, who specializes in rebuilding veteran fighters and former elite boxers. Roach is OK at developing young prospects but he's really at his best when he's given a talented former contender or former titleholder who already has a foundation. Just check his track record over the past 15 years with James Toney, Manny Pacquiao, Amir Khan and Miguel Cotto. Toney was thought to be finished and uncoachable, Pacquiao was a complete unknown and as raw as he was talented, Khan had been "exposed" by Breidis Prescott and Cotto was supposedly shot when they all began working with Roach. All of them won titles, upset the odds and fought at top form (at least for a time) under Roach's guidance. If Roach can get a lazy, modest talent like Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. to get into decent shape and win a major title, think of what he can do with Bute, who has an extensive amateur background, tremendous athletic gifts and a strong work ethic.

HUGHIE FURY

TYSON FURY'S COUSIN DOESN'T FEEL PRESSURE

By **Tom Gray**

It can't be easy playing little cousin to a frustrated showman like Tyson Fury, who also happens to be ranked among the best heavyweights in the world. But while 20-year-old Hughie Fury is merely a prospect, he doesn't fear a thing. At 6 feet 6 inches and 240 pounds, he doesn't need to.

"I don't feel any pressure in regards to other people's expectations," said Fury. "This is what I've wanted to do since I was a kid and it's my dream job. I know I'll do well in boxing no matter what people think about me.

"I love the sport and the atmosphere when I get in the ring. Most of all I just love to fight, one on one, when it's just you and the opponent. All the hard work is done and getting that end result is something special."

Peter Fury is Hughie's father and trainer, as well as head trainer to nephew Tyson. Although based in Manchester, England, the family is a proud part of the Irish Traveller community, within which a lot of problems are settled with fists.

"Hughie has been involved in boxing since birth," said Peter, who also trains former world-title challenger Eddie Chambers. "Being from a family of fighters, he was encouraged to take up the sport and we knew straight away he was gifted.

"We're only one year into his professional journey and he is already very polished. He's good at nullifying opponents, which is a great quality to have at this stage. His movement, for a big man, is second to none and, despite being so tall, he's a natural body-puncher, which is rare."

The plan has been for Hughie, who is promoted by Mick Hennessey in conjunction with Peter Fury, to remain very active. Fourteen fights in as many months has worked wonders, they say.

"The key benefit with Hughie fighting regularly was for him to absorb pro experience," said Hennessey. "That's refreshing and a lot of young fighters could do with adopting his attitude. A lot of them want every fight on television but that isn't always possible.

"Hughie is a modern day heavyweight, like Tyson. He's very athletic, which is appealing on the eye, and deadly serious in the ring. His work rate is impressive and he always looks for the finish."

Still, enthusiasm aside, there's work to be done. And Peter Fury is as harsh in camp as any trainer could be.

"You have to dig deep as a pro because your life is on the line," said the 45-year-old trainer. "To become world champion you go through hell, so that's what Hughie will be accustomed to. You need mental toughness, as well as physical capabilities. It's not a question of whether you feel like it or not."

Tough love indeed, but the fighter understands. And the trust between father and son is solid.

"Nobody knows you better than your own father," said Hughie.

Hughie Fury has stopped eight opponents, including Matthew Greer.

THE ESSENTIALS

Age: 20

Weight class: Heavyweight

Height: 6 feet 6 inches

Stance: Orthodox

Hometown: Manchester, England

Record: 14-0 (8 knockouts)

Biggest Strengths: Size and fitness ★ athleticism for a massive fighter ★ sustained body assault.

Biggest question marks: Risk of burnout due to a heavy schedule ★ temptation for too much too soon ★ untested against tough opposition.

"I've been with my dad since I was 15 years old and I've never lost under his guidance. We connected straight away and he'll be with me until the day I retire.

"I'm constantly improving and every day I learn something new. I've been sparring with Eddie Chambers, who is pure world class. His skills and movement are excellent. I could hold my own from the start but I've been improving big time in those sessions."

There are no plans to slow down. Fury turned 20 on Sept. 18 yet he and his handlers are open to fighting for a title in the near future.

"If a domestic title fight is offered, then we'd take it," Peter Fury said, "but that would be a stepping-stone towards our main goal, which is to be world champion." RING

3 MORE TO WATCH

GAMAL YAFAI
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT

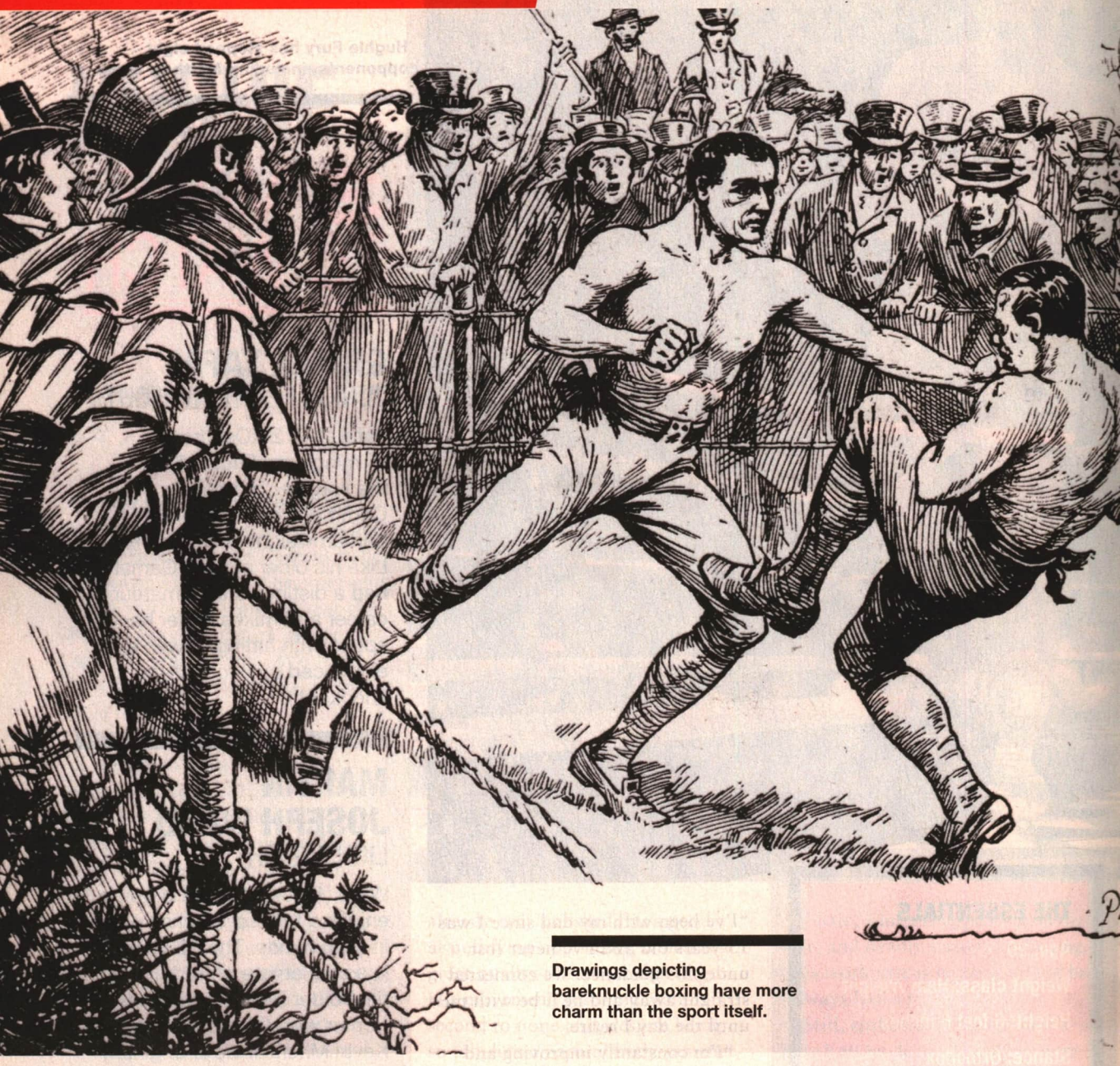
Yafai (4-0, 2 KOs), from Birmingham, England, is the younger brother of Commonwealth junior bantamweight champion Kal. Like his older sibling, Gamal had a distinguished amateur career and mixes rapier hand speed with hitting power, as evidenced by two first-round knockouts.

MARTIN JOSEPH WARD
LIGHTWEIGHT

Ward (10-0-1, 5 KOs) is quick, enjoys a tear-up and has power in both hands. The 22-year-old is a stablemate of former WBO titleholder Ricky Burns and former world title challenger Kevin Mitchell. He is originally from Leeds in Yorkshire.

STEPHEN SIMMONS
CRUISERWEIGHT

Simmons (10-0, 5 KOs) is a Scottish cruiserweight who capped off an excellent amateur career by winning bronze at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010. He has an educated left jab, solid fundamentals and is targeting the best 200-pounders.



Drawings depicting bareknuckle boxing have more charm than the sport itself.

BAREKNUCKLE VS. GLOVED

FIGHTING WITH BARE FISTS MIGHT BE SAFER THAN GLOVED BOXING IN SOME RESPECTS BUT IT'S TOO GRUESOME TO EMBRACE

By **Scott LaFee**

Jack Dempsey described James Figg as the father of modern boxing. If the latter's name doesn't ring a bell (or you don't give a fig), that's probably because Figg didn't fight like modern boxers. He battled bareknuckled and held the title of world champion (or at least all-England) from 1719 to 1730, when he retired. He died in 1734 at the age of 40.

Though records are sketchy, some credit Figg with 269 wins and one loss in 270 bouts. Bareknuckle boxing, it seems, doesn't produce many draws, possibly for two simple reasons.

First, in the old days at least, bouts lasted a long time, which made it more likely that a winner would emerge. John L. Sullivan is widely regarded as the first heavyweight champion of gloved boxing but he was also the last bareknuckle champ, beating Jake Kilrain in the 75th round of a scheduled 80-rounder in

1889. The 1855 bareknuckle bout between James Kelly and Jonathan Smith at Fiery Creek, Australia, went a mere 17 rounds but lasted a record six hours and 15 minutes.

The bouts ended when Kilrain and Smith threw in the towel. They could not continue, which leads to the second likely reason for few draws: Bareknuckle boxing tends to definitively differentiate winners and losers. Either somebody gets beaten to a bloody (or bloodier) pulp or somebody breaks a hand. Both effectively stop a fight.

The modern boxing glove, which emerged in the mid-19th century, seemed like a handy remedy to both issues. Gloves do, in fact, reduce the chances of bloody superficial cuts. But multiple scientific studies suggest they do not reduce much more dangerous brain trauma. Indeed, the opposite might be true because fighters wearing gloves can punch harder to the heads of opponents with less fear of damaging their own hands. And the recipient of those blows, with fewer overt signs of injury (i.e. cuts) is more likely to endure punishment longer.

In recent years, perhaps inspired by the popularity of mixed martial arts in which participants wear minimal, open-fingered gloves, there has been a resurgence of sorts of bareknuckle boxing.

In 2011, the World Bareknuckle Boxing Association (WBBA) sanctioned its first official bout, a match in Scottsdale, Arizona, between former cruiserweight contender and WBBA co-founder Bobby Gunn and Richard Steward. Gunn prevailed, claiming Sullivan's long-vacant title as bareknuckle champ.

Gunn won by a third-round knockout, which got us wondering again about advocates' claims that bareknuckle boxing may be bloodier than gloved boxing but it is also safer. One oft-cited statistic is that in the century leading up to Sullivan's final bareknuckle bout, there was not a single ring fatality. True or not, of course, it doesn't address what might have happened outside of the ring.

For some answers, we asked an expert with experience in both boxing styles:

"There's a penalty for punching in bare-knuckled boxing," said Joe Estwanik, a North Carolina orthopedic surgeon and long-time ringside physician. "It's probably reasonable to argue that bare-knuckled boxing is safer in some respects. A fighter who subconsciously knows he might hurt his hand on a hard skull may pull his punches to the head a little bit or focus more on hitting the body."

But there's still plenty of risk, said Estwanik. Without protective padding, the tendons covering the knuckles are vulnerable to rupture, which could require surgery to repair. Estwanik, who was the officiating doctor at Ultimate Fighting Championship 3 in 1994, recalled that in the early days of UFC, when fighters typically fought without any hand covering, "One of the most serious injuries was a fighter who punched someone in the mouth, suffered a tooth cut on his hand that became infected. He wound up severely ill and hospitalized."

More broadly, argues Estwanik, the greater propensity for open wounds and profuse bleeding in bareknuckle boxing is bad for the sport. "That's why I developed the grappling glove (open-fingered, but padded over the knuckles). Mixed martial arts was on its way to being banned back then. It was too bloody. It looked too brutal. We have enough concerns right now in boxing and MMA, in participation by youth and women. Anything that could potentially tarnish our sport is a bad idea."

Possibly even knuckle-headed.

MIA ST. JOHN'S OTHER BATTLE

THE POPULAR BOXER REMAINS 'ADDICTED' TO THE SPORT BUT ALSO FIGHTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH REFORM

By **Thomas Gerbasi**

Mia St. John's son has schizophrenia, which has inspired her to take action.

Mia St. John has a lot of fight left in her, even at 47. She won her "farewell" fight against Christy Martin in August 2012, yet has had three more fights, losing each time. And she doesn't rule out another return to the ring.

"I always said I would be different than the men," she said with a laugh. "And I ended up doing exactly the same thing. Christy Martin told me we're like addicts; it's an addiction."

The difference these days is that ring wars aren't St. John's only addiction. She is fighting a pitched battle on another front too.

St. John's 24-year-old son, Julian, a talented artist, was diagnosed with schizophrenia when he was 18. The young man has been alternately homeless and behind bars, which has been too much for St. John to bear.

As a result, she created the Mia St. John Foundation and has become a tireless advocate for mental health care reforms with California Rep. Grace Napolitano and former NBA star Ron Artest.

"What really lit a fire under my butt was my son developing schizophrenia some years ago," said St. John, who herself suffers from obsessive-compulsive disorder. "I really took the lack of care we have for mental health in this country personally. That's what really motivated me. It really wasn't so much my illness because I can handle myself. But when it comes to my child, that's when I really took it personal.

"My son was going back and forth between homelessness and being incarcerated and I thought,

'What kind of a system is this?' So I started joining politicians that were fighting for this and just got really involved with it."

St. John, who also has a daughter (Paris) with her ex-husband, actor Kristoff St. John, won conservatorship of Julian in March and he's currently being treated in a hospital. Most are not so lucky, which pushes the former champion to fight even harder.

"Since [President Ronald] Reagan shut down the mental health facilities in the '80s, we just toss them out on the streets," St. John said. "We leave them homeless. And if they're not there, we incarcerate them in our Twin Towers Correctional Facility (in Los Angeles). We've had so many shootings, and with all the shootings all the parents will say, 'Well, we tried to get our son help. There was no help and we couldn't do anything about it.'"

I asked St. John if there's any light at the end of the tunnel.

"I don't know if anything will really change that dramatically in my lifetime or in my son's lifetime but I still have to do what I can," she said quietly. "Not just for my son, but for the kids that come after him."

That's a fighter's heart, one that has never been in question when it comes to St. John. She was once ridiculed for walking through hapless opposition on Top Rank cards – often paired with Butterbean – but went on to fight an array of elite foes. How's Martin, Cecilia Braekhus, Holly Holm, Jelena Mrdjenovich, and Jessica Rakoczy for starters? St. John lost her share but never hid from a challenge.

"I can live with that because I know I fought them all. I didn't duck anybody," said St. John (47-14-2, 18 knockouts). "At some point in my career I just decided that I wanted to see where I really stand with these women. And I don't care if I lose because that doesn't say anything other than I was brave enough to try. Why do I want to fool myself my whole career and just keep fighting women I know I can beat? Where's the glory in that? I'd rather lose and know exactly where I stand.

"No, I wasn't the best, but I wasn't the worst either. I was pretty damn good."

You can still hear the excitement in her voice when she talks about boxing; the addiction is strong. But she also wonders if things could have been different. That's why one goal of her foundation is to provide multiple options for young people, not just boxing.

"There are boxing gyms on every corner," she said. "Let's put a computer lab in a barrio that has no electricity and running water. Let's put electricity and internet in there, let's put computers in there and give them a choice. If we did have access to better health care and education for kids like myself, maybe we wouldn't choose boxing as a career."

St. John did choose boxing. And while she's had her ups and downs in the sport, she realizes her fame contributes to her ability to do good. That's a victory that doesn't show up on a win-loss record.

WOMEN'S TOP 10

1. CECILIA BRAEKHUS
Norway • 26-0 (7 KOs)
Welterweight

2. JELENA MRDJENOVICH
Canada • 33-9-1 (17 KOS)
Featherweight

3. YESICA YOLANDA BOPP
Argentina • 27-1 (12 KOs),
Flyweight

4. JESSICA CHAVEZ
Mexico • 21-3-3 (4 KOs)
Junior flyweight

5. AVA KNIGHT
U.S. • 12-2-3 (5 KOs)
Junior flyweight

6. DIANA PRAZAK
Australia • 13-2 (9 KOs)
Junior lightweight

7. JACKIE NAVA
Mexico • 30-4-3 (13 KOs)
Junior Featherweight

8. MARCELA ELIANA ACUNA
Argentina • 42-6-1 (18 KOs)
Junior featherweight

9. DELFINE PERSOON
Belgium • 29-1 (13 KOs)
Lightweight

10. ERICA ANABELLA FARIAS
Argentina • 20-1 (10 KOs)
Lightweight

Through fights of Sept. 21, 2014

MAKING HISTORY

Norway's Cecilia Braekhus raised the bar in women's boxing once again on Sept. 13 in Copenhagen, Denmark, becoming the first to win all four major belts in a single division by shutting out Croatia's Ivana Habazin.

Braekhus, already the WBA, WBC, and WBO welterweight titleholder, added Habazin's IBF belt by putting on a 10-round boxing clinic at the TAP1 Arena. She won 100-90 on all three cards.

Braekhus (26-0, 7 knockouts) shows no signs of slowing down at 32, cementing her place atop the RING Pound-for-Pound list.

Shakur Stevenson (right) beat Lyu Ping of China to win gold at the Youth Olympics.

REASON TO CELEBRATE

THREE U.S. BOXERS MEDAL AT THE 2014 YOUTH OLYMPICS IN CHINA

By Joseph Santoliquito

Nothing seemed to be going right for USA Boxing in 2014. The organization lost its coach, Pedro Roque, in June. It endured upheaval, which resulted in the restructuring of its hierarchy. It was reeling.

Then came some good news: Two U.S. men and one woman – flyweight Shakur Stevenson (gold), lightweight Jajaira Gonzalez (gold) and super heavyweight Darmani Rock (silver) – medaled in the 2014 Youth Olympic Games on Aug. 23-27 in Nanjing, China, matching Cuba and Italy as the best in the tournament.

The U.S. sent four boxers to China, with only middleweight Martha Fabela failing to medal. It sent only one, heavyweight Joshua Temple, to the inaugural Youth Olympics in 2010 and he didn't medal.

The success in China could serve as a nice harbinger as the 2016 Olympics in Brazil approach.

"Our expectations were high going to China," said Edward Rivas, who stepped in to coach the U.S. team after serving as Roque's top assistant. "This was a great confidence boost for the team and USA Boxing. All three fighters that medaled I can say felt comfortable going into the tournament. I think part of the reason was because of the international experience they gained under Pedro, starting back in 2013. It was a great setting to be in because in the past the Youth Olympics would be the first experience our team would have at the international level."

Stevenson, who probably won't compete again at 114 pounds, was dominant from start to finish. The Newark, New Jersey, resident endured the shouts of a biased audience in shutting out China's Lyu Ping 3-0 in the final. Stevenson's technique was sharp. His stamina was superb.

"This was different in a better way than past experiences," said Stevenson. "It was as close to the Olympics as it can get, [officials] told us, and I think it helped me in how I deal with our weight and

managing time. I felt really good throughout the whole thing. Everything surrounding the team hasn't been good. A lot of people didn't expect us to do as well. But I think this proved some people wrong."

As Stevenson did at 114, Gonzalez, of Glendora, California, tore through the 132-pound class. She scored a 3-0 victory over Ireland's Ciara Ginty in the gold medal round.

"I think I learned that I'm stronger than I thought because my weight was high and I didn't even think I could make the weight," said Gonzalez, who went back to class at her high school after returning from China. "I gained a lot of experience in going through all of this. It will definitely get me better for Rio."

Rock also learned a great deal about himself after losing 3-0 in the final to Peter Kadiru, leaving him with a silver medal. Rock had beaten the German 2-1 at the 2014 Youth World Championships last April in Bulgaria. He feels he took Kadiru lightly and could've been in better shape.

"This time he was in better shape than I was, he threw way more punches than he did at the worlds," Rock said. "It bothered me getting the silver. A few years ago, I'll admit it, I would have been happy with a silver medal. I think it shows that I'm growing up. I'm putting more time into training and committing more to boxing. I'm not losing to him again."

All this was great news to Rivas.

"It was great to see Darmani angry [that] he got a second because our expectations were a gold medal for him," Rivas said. "The things Darmani did wrong are all correctable. There were a lot of positives Darmani could take from the tournament. I like the fact that he wasn't satisfied and that second place has affected him in a positive way. It will motivate him for the next tournament.

"Overall, this was a fantastic finish for everyone. They're ready to make the transition to the elite level. And that comes from success at the youth level." RING

2014 YOUTH OLYMPICS U.S. BOXERS RESULTS

AUG. 23

Women's middleweight: Caitlin Parker (Australia) def. Martha Fabela 3-0

Men's flyweight: Shakur Stevenson def. Daniel Asenov (Bulgaria) 3-0

Men's super heavyweight: Darmani Rock def. Kevin Espindola (Argentina) walkover

AUG. 24

Women's lightweight: Jajaira Gonzalez def. Agnes Alexiusson (Sweden) 2-0

Men's flyweight: Stevenson def. Muhammad Ali (Great Britain) 3-0

Men's super heavyweight: Rock def. Marat Kerimkhanov (Russia) 2-1

AUG. 25

Women's middleweight (fifth place match): Davina Michel (France) def. Fabela 3-0

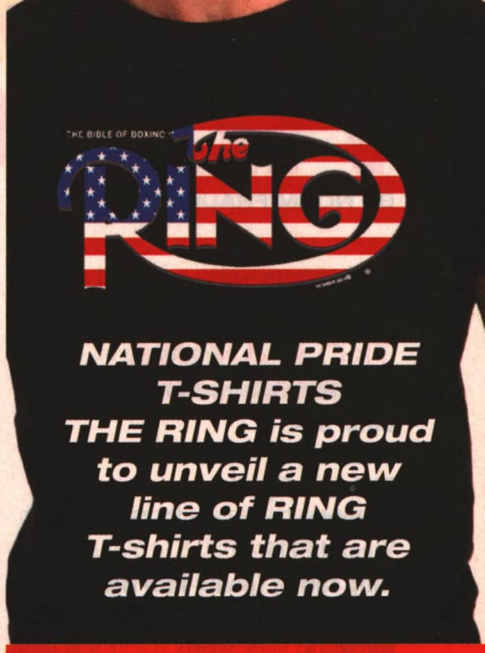
AUG. 26

Women's lightweight (gold medal match): Gonzalez def. Ciara Ginty (Ireland) 3-0

AUG. 27

Men's flyweight (gold medal match): Stevenson def. Lyu Ping (China) 3-0

Men's super heavyweight (gold medal match): Peter Kadiru (Germany) def. Rock 3-0



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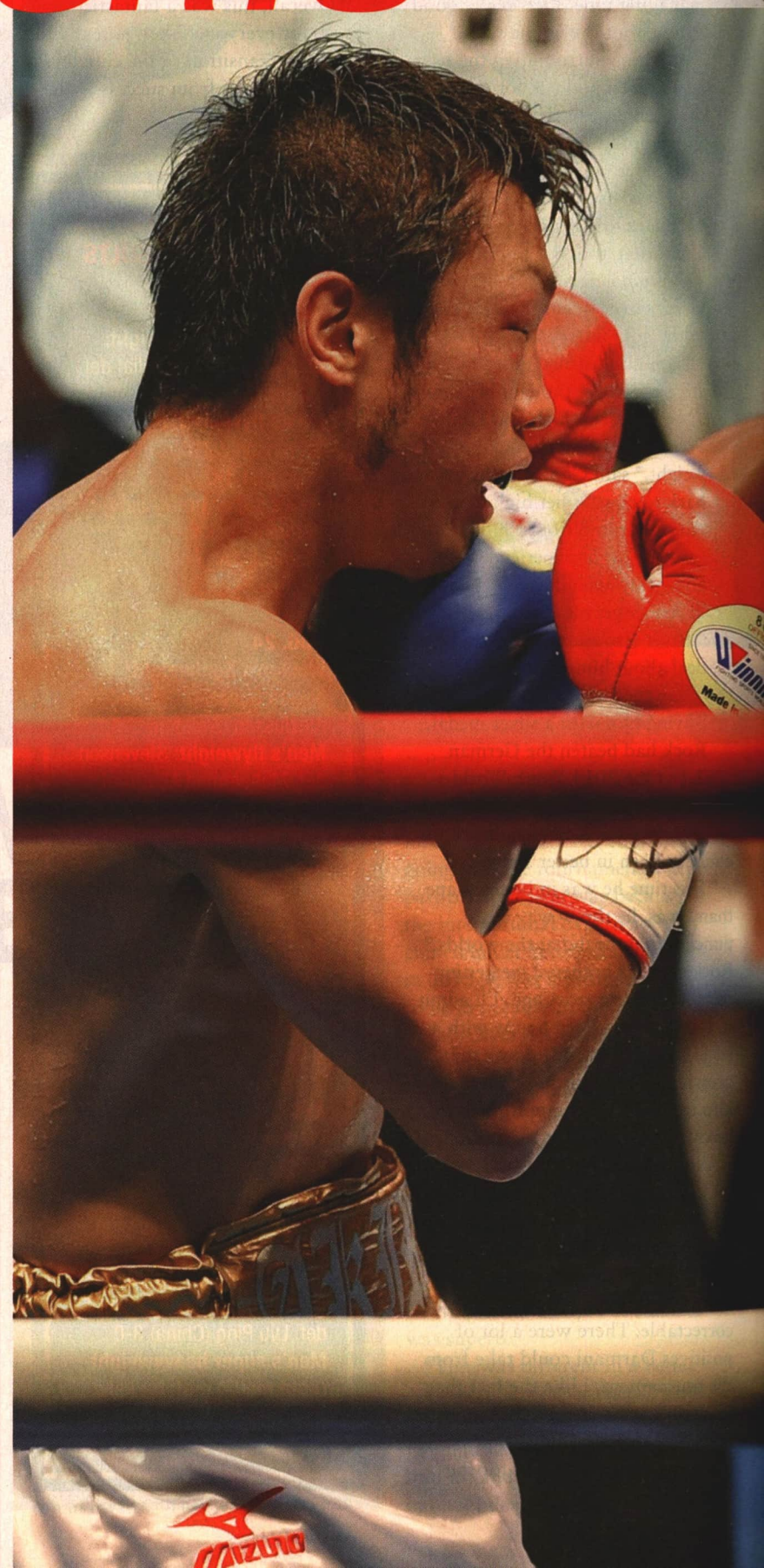
RINGSIDE REPORTS

BY NORM FRAUENHEIM

ROMAN GONZALEZ TKO 9 AKIRA YAEGASHI

Date: Sept. 5
Site: Tokyo
Division: Flyweight
Weights: Gonzalez 111.75 pounds, Yaegashi 112
Ring rating (going into fight): Gonzalez, No. 1; Yaegashi, Champion
Network: beIN Sports



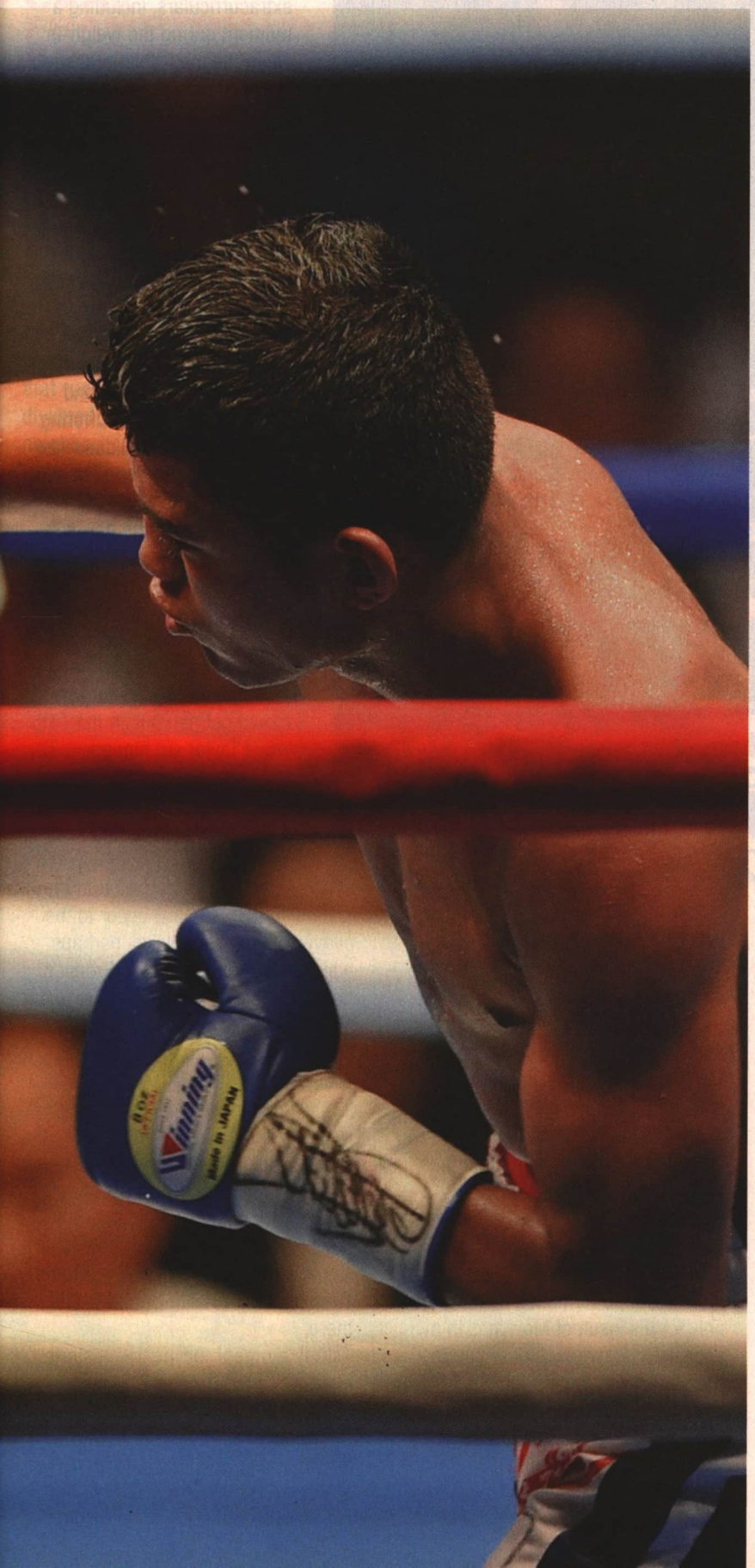
Put Roman Gonzalez and Akira Yaegashi back to back on the same scale and Wladimir Klitschko would out-weigh them by about 10 pounds. They are the Lilliputians, the flyweights. They'd need a stepladder to look Klitschko in the eye during a traditional staredown. Yeah, they're little. But don't call them trivial.

History shows that the lightest end of the scale often has a big impact. That theme played out all over again in a bout as significant as any in the smallest divisions since Michael Carbajal and Humberto Gonzalez diverted attention from the bigger guys with their junior flyweight rivalry two decades ago.

It happened in Tokyo, where Roman Gonzalez has gone to forge a career among the world's best collection of little giants. In beating Yaegashi by a ninth-round stoppage, he began to surpass the aforementioned pair, as well as Ricardo Lopez. All were legends in their own right. But there's a new Lord of the Flies.

Gonzalez (40-0, 34 KOs), a former 105- and 108-pound champion, has the proof with a third and fourth title, the RING and WBC 112-pound crowns. He took them from Yaegashi (20-4, 10 KOs), knocking him down in the third round and again in the ninth when referee Michael Griffin stopped it at 2:24 of the round.

Before the opening bell, Gonzalez said he wanted to make history. He



Roman Gonzalez demonstrated by stopping Akira Yaegashi that he has maintained his power as he has moved up in weight.

did, becoming the first Nicaraguan to win a title at a third weight since Alexis Arguello, his boyhood hero. Gonzalez grew up in a gym that is a virtual monument to the late Hall of Famer.

"He taught me what it means to represent Nicaragua in boxing abroad," Gonzalez told RingTV.com in a Q&A.

In his sixth bout in Japan, Gonzalez finally got a career-defining victory. It was thought that Yaegashi's quick hands and tactical patience would give Gonzalez trouble. Not long after the opening bell, however, there was little doubt. Gonzalez led on the scorecards 79-72, 79-72 and 80-71 at the time of the stoppage.

"He was indeed tough, as I expected," Yaegashi told ringside media.

It was hard to guess in September where Gonzalez will go next. There's talk of a rematch of his 2012 decision over Juan Francisco Estrada, which took place at 108. There are other opportunities in Japan, with emerging stars Kazuto Ioka and Naoya Inoue at the top of an intriguing list. Competition at flyweight is fierce, said Gonzalez, the face of a golden age unfolding in Asia.

There's something else to consider, too. THE RING's title at junior bantamweight, 115 pounds, is vacant. The 27-year-old Gonzalez could move up in weight for a fourth title. It's beginning to look as if he's just beginning to make history. ★

Adrien Broner (right) punctuated his decision over Emanuel Taylor by putting Taylor down late in the final round.

ADRIEN BRONER UD 12 EMANUEL TAYLOR

Date: Sept. 6
Site: U.S. Bank Arena, Cincinnati
Division: Junior welterweight
Weights: Broner 140 pounds, Taylor 138.5
Ring rating (going into fight): Broner, No. 7; Taylor not rated
Network: Showtime

Adrien Broner has nicknames and aspirations. If he isn't The Problem, he's AB. Those initials are a bit like the fighter. Fill in the blanks. About Billions, All Bull, Always Bluffing, Always Bragging or Always Baffling. Take your pick. So far, Broner has been all of the above in his fast rise and fall from being the next Floyd Mayweather Jr. to a beaten prospect on the comeback trail.

Let's just say he's still interesting. Still incomplete, too.

Against Emanuel Taylor, Broner went home to Cincinnati and back to a more natural weight, perhaps in an attempt to hit the reset button on a career that went sideways in a welterweight loss to Marcos Maidana last December. It was his second bout since the loss. In May, he beat Carlos Molina in a performance memorable only for his insult of Mexicans in a post-fight interview. Broner courts the outrageous yet in Cincinnati he appeared to be more focused on the fundamental task of beating Taylor, a solid junior welterweight.

Make no mistake, there were extracurriculars, including a moment during the weigh-in when the man-child grabbed Taylor around the throat. In the ring, however, Broner (29-1, 22 KOs) attacked in an effective, mature fashion. Taylor (18-3, 12 KOs) challenged him early and aggressively, almost as if he were trying to mimic the pace Maidana had employed.

Taylor fought Broner to a standstill through six rounds. It was almost as if Broner was having second thoughts or fears of suffering through another Maidana-like nightmare. But he maintained his poise.

"At the end of the day, you got to learn to keep your cool," he told ringside reporters.

His talent allowed him to. With quicker hands and more power in each one, Broner took control. His hometown crowd got nervous in the 11th when Taylor cut him above the right eye. But the real damage already had been done by Broner's left hooks and body shots.

With 15 seconds left in the fight, a left sent Taylor to the canvas. It was impressive, perhaps a sign of what's to come in Broner's next fight, maybe against Lucas Matthysse. But his victory over Taylor was already written into the cards. Broner was a 116-111, 115-112, 116-111 winner. It was unanimous, even if his performance was mixed. He started slowly. His punch rate – 44 per round – remains paltry, a significant liability in the loss to Maidana. But the victory was competent and could signal a newfound maturity in Broner. Then again, the AB in Broner is still there.

"Any moment for me is a historic moment," said Broner, who couldn't resist a chance to be Always Bragging. "I already got a Hall of Fame career. Now, it's only going to get bigger for me." ★

CARL FRAMPTON UD 12 KIKO MARTINEZ

Date: Sept. 6
Site: Belfast, Northern Ireland
Division: Junior featherweight
Weights: Frampton 121.44 pounds, Martinez 121.13
Ring rating (going into fight): Frampton No. 1, Martinez No. 3
Network: BoxNation, AWE

The Berlin Wall fell more than 25 years ago but there's still a wall that runs through Belfast. It divides Protestant and Catholic neighborhoods in a reminder that a violent time known as the Troubles is never far away.

But for one night there were no Troubles. No historical divide. There was only Carl Frampton. He scored a 119-108, 118-111, 119-108 victory over Kiko Martinez at an outdoor arena in the city's fabled Titanic Quarter just a short piece of roadwork from the Tigers Bay neighborhood where he grew up.

The cards were unanimous and so was the crowd, 16,000 strong, all cheering wildly for Frampton (19-0, 13 KOs), who knocked down a bloodied Martinez (31-5, 23 KOs) with a counterpunching attack for the IBF junior featherweight title.

"The only man I want to fight now is Scott Quigg," Frampton told ringside reporters when asked about his Manchester rival. "I'll fight him anywhere."

There was no argument from Quigg, although one devil among many in the details might be location, location, location. Quigg kept alive the possibility of a showdown with Frampton a week later in Manchester with a third-round stoppage of Belgium's Stephane Jamoye, who was on the canvas and finished by a body shot.

"Carl Frampton is the fight I want next," Quigg told the BBC.

But politics might get in the way. Quigg is promoted by Eddie Hearn, who used to promote and manage Frampton before he jumped to Barry McGuigan, a former featherweight champion and Northern Ireland legend.

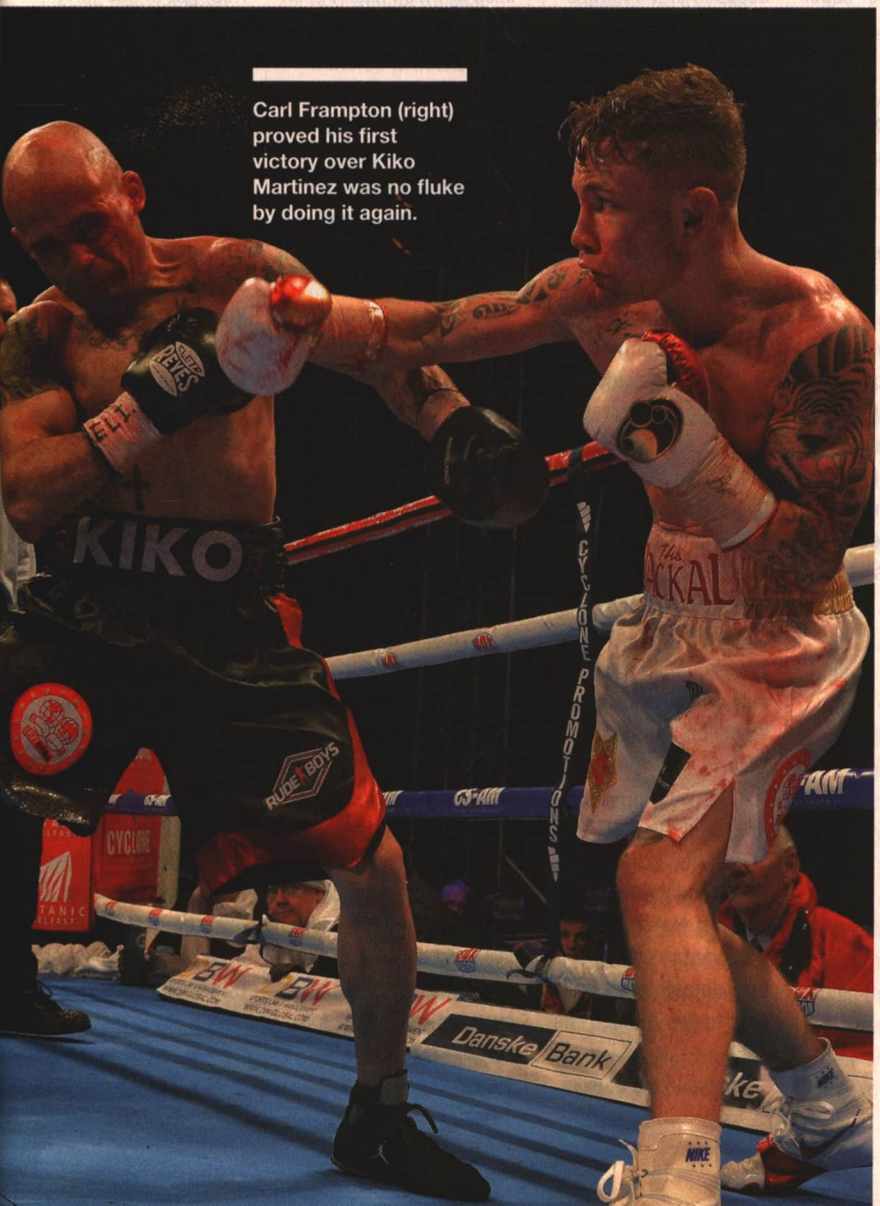
"Barry, Eddie, Carl and I should sit down in a room and not come out until it is sorted," Quigg said.

Hearn had a suggestion: A two-fight deal, one in Manchester and one in Belfast. If an agreement can't be reached, options include Mexican-American Leo Santa Cruz and Cuban Guillermo Rigondeaux, who is considered to be the best in the division.

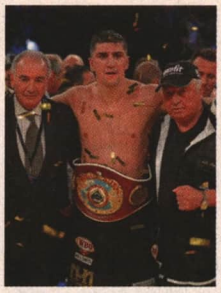
"I'll leave it up to my management, but if it's right, I'm willing to fight Frampton in Belfast," Santa Cruz said before his second-round demolition of ex-sparring partner Manuel Roman on Sept. 13 in Las Vegas.

The Sept. 6 fight was a rematch of Frampton's 2013 stoppage of Martinez, also in Belfast. Frampton's hometown advantage was evident from start to finish in their second meeting, with Martinez cut near his left eye and floored by a counter right in a pivotal fifth round.

The crowd's roar began with Frampton's walk to the ring and it continued in a way that seemed to energize Frampton against a depleted Martinez during the final two rounds. The arena was specially built for the bout-turned-spectacle. It was temporary, gone not long after the judges' scores were announced. But echoes from that crowd are still there. ★



Carl Frampton (right) proved his first victory over Kiko Martinez was no fluke by doing it again.



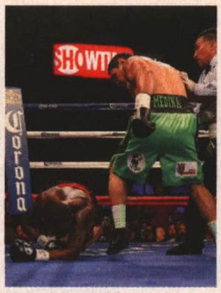
NO. 1 MARCO HUCK UD 12 MIRKO LARGHETTI

Aug. 30, Halle, Germany (ADR)

★ It was as predictable as it was bizarre. Marco Huck, perhaps the best cruiserweight since Johnny Nelson, got a foreseen victory over Mirko Larghetti but was denied the chance to celebrate a stoppage.

Huck (38-2-1, 26 KOs) was putting the finishing touch on a dominant performance. In the closing seconds, he dropped an exhausted Larghetti (21-1, 13 KOs) with a right. Referee Jack Reiss stepped forward. It looked as if he would stop the fight. He ruled the punch landed before the final bell, although none was heard on the telecast.

Rules stated Larghetti couldn't be saved by the bell. He couldn't be saved by the judges, either. For some unexplained reason, the fight went to the cards. It was unanimous, maybe redundant. Huck, who tied Nelson's string of title defenses at 13, was a 116-112, 118-110, 116-112 winner.



ROGELIO MEDINA KO 3 NO. 10 J'LEON LOVE

Aug. 30, Las Vegas, (Showtime)

★ It was supposed be a tune-up. But it turned into a change-up, maybe a shake-up, for the plans that Mayweather Promotions had for super middleweight J'Leon Love.

Love (18-1, 10 KOs) found himself looking down with only canvas in sight after a left hook from Medina left the Michigan prospect with his first loss and an uncertain future.

A desperate Love tried to regain his footing and retain his optimistic future. But he couldn't overcome shaky legs or the count from Tony Weeks, who waved it off at 39 seconds of the third round.

NO. 4 NAOYA INOUE TKO 11 SAMARTLEK KOKIETGYM

Sept. 5, Tokyo (beIN Sports)

★ Spectacular stinks. At least, Naoya Inoue thinks so.

Inoue, nicknamed "Monster" perhaps because of monstrous expectations, looked sensational in an 11th-round stoppage of Thailand's Samartlek Kokietgym. Yet he wasn't happy.

"I stank," Inoue told ringside reporters, who are calling him Japan`s latest sensation.

Despite failing his own smell test, Inoue's demolition of Samartlek created an appetite for more from the junior flyweight. Samartlek (17-5, 5 KOs) was knocked down three times, could not see out of a battered left eye and could smell only defeat when it was stopped at 1:08 of the 11th.

At 21, Inoue (7-0, 6 KOs) won the WBC title in only his sixth fight. He defended it in his seventh. He's in a hurry.

"I want to condense the contents of today's bout to five rounds," he said.

Smells like a plan.

NO. 2 JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA TKO 11 NO. 9 GIOVANI SEGURA

Sept. 6, Mexico City (beIN Sports)

★ The little big men have never been bigger.

A potential rivalry the likes of which hasn't been seen since the Michael Carbajal-Humberto Gonzalez trilogy has fans of the lightest divisions hoping for a flyweight rematch between Juan Francisco Estrada and Roman Gonzalez.

In 2012 Gonzalez scored a decision over Estrada in Los Angeles and talk of an encore started immediately after Estrada's dramatic stoppage of Giovani Segura, which followed Gonzalez's stoppage of Akira Yaegashi in Tokyo a day earlier.

It is a small world yet the flyweights became more global than ever after Estrada (27-2, 22 KOs) kept up his end of the possibility with quick hands and precise punches that were too much for Segura (32-4-1, 28 KOs), an ex-junior flyweight champion who endured a combo of six successive punches before Raul Caiz Jr.'s stoppage at 1:33 of the 11th.

NO. 1 LUCAS MATTHYSSE KO 2 ROBERTO ORTIZ

Sept. 6, Cincinnati, (Showtime)

★ Lucas Matthysse finished Roberto Ortiz on a night of doubt.

Matthysse (36-3, 34 KOs) got in line for a shot at Adrien Broner with a second-round knockout of Ortiz (31-1-1, 24 KOs). But did Ortiz beat referee Benjy Esteves Jr.'s count?

A body shot put Ortiz onto a knee at 2:45 of the round. He spit out his mouthpiece. Esteves began a 10-count. But it looked as if he waved it off as Ortiz got up at the count of nine. Ortiz didn't protest. In a post-fight interview, however, he complained, saying he wanted a rematch.

Would it have mattered if the fight had gone on? Unlikely. Matthysse didn't waste words on the controversy. For him, it was stepping-stone toward what he did talk about: the Broner fight or a rematch with Danny Garcia.

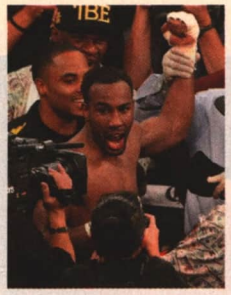
ANDRE BERTO
UD 10 **STEVE UPSHER**
Sept. 6, Cincinnati (Showtime)

★ It's easy to forget a lot during 14 months. First and foremost, Andre Berto just wanted to make sure that he had not been forgotten altogether.

He re-introduced himself with a solid decision over Steve Upsher. On the cards, there was no disagreement. It was 99-91 on all three. But there was no consensus on whether Berto (29-3, 22 KOs), a former two-time welterweight titlist, can resurrect himself as a 147-pound contender.

"We'll get better," said Berto, who in his first bout since surgery on his right shoulder was busier with a solid jab and a good right hand against an overmatched Upsher (24-4-1, 6 KOs).

With trainer Virgil Hunter in his corner, Berto, who turned 31 on the day after the victory, also practiced some newfound attention to defense, which he'll need if he hopes to re-emerge in a division full of emerging stars.



MICKEY BEY
SD 12
NO. 1 MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
Sept. 13, Las Vegas, (Showtime)

★ There were boos. There was boredom. There was a wild card. It wouldn't be a fight card without at least one. None of that mattered to Mickey Bey. He celebrated.

Bey (21-1-1, 10 KOs) finally had a major title, the IBF's 135-pound version, with a split decision over Miguel Vazquez (34-4, 13 KOs).

"He was number one and now it's me," Bey said. "I'm not surprised."

But Vazquez, bloodied in a third-round head butt, was surprised. Even baffled.

"I thought the fight was close," Vazquez said.

A lack of action – they combined to land only 170 punches, according to CompuBox – left a bored crowd thinking it would be a draw. Judge Julie Lederman scored it 115-113 for Bey. Adelaide Byrd had the same score for Vazquez. But Robert Hoyle had it 119-109 for Bey. Huh? No wonder there were boos.

NO. 2 LEO SANTA CRUZ
TKO 2
MANUEL ROMAN
Sept. 13, Las Vegas, (Showtime)

★ Leo Santa Cruz has a smile that comes straight out of Pharrell Williams' hit song, "Happy." He also has power that makes opponents sing the blues.

Against former sparring partner Manuel Roman, there was never any doubt about the result. But it happened in a way that makes Santa Cruz (28-0-1, 16 KOs) a danger to Guillermo Rigondeaux, Carl Frampton, Scott Quigg or anybody else in the competitive junior featherweight division.

Santa Cruz, boxing's Happy Warrior, retained the WBC 122-pound title by blowing out Roman (17-3-3, 6 KOs) with a single strike, a straight right.

Roman, a 50-to-1 underdog on Vegas books, collapsed. As Roman tried to get up, referee Robert Byrd ended it at 55 seconds of the second round.

"I want to fight Guillermo Rigondeaux," Santa Cruz said, smiling.

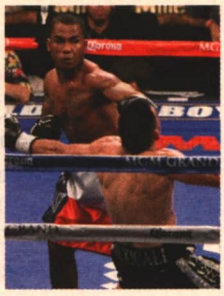
NO. 3 SCOTT QUIGG
TKO 3
STEPHANE JAMOYE
Sept. 13, Manchester, England (Sky Sports)

★ First there was Stephane Jamoye. Then there were negotiations.

Scott Quigg (29-0-2, 22 KOs) was all business in a third-round stoppage of Jamoye (26-6, 16 KOs), a little-known Belgian, in a victory that created momentum for a junior featherweight showdown with Belfast's Carl Frampton.

Hopes for a Frampton fight were Quigg's first words after he finished Jamoye with a body shot at 1:13 of the third. Location – Belfast or Manchester – posed one hurdle, although Quigg promoter Eddie Hearn suggested a deal for two fights, one in each city. The purse split was another potential issue.

"But there are no true obstacles in making this fight, only ego," Hearn told U.K. media. "If we don't get the opportunity to provide these two great fighters with the biggest payday of their career, quite frankly both teams should be ashamed."



JAMES DE LA ROSA
UD 10
ALFREDO ANGULO
Sept. 13, Las Vegas (Showtime)

★ James De La Rosa celebrated with a backflip. When he landed, he stumbled. But he didn't fall. Nothing could knock De La Rosa (23-2, 13 KOs) off his feet.

Alfredo Angulo (22-5, 18 KOs) tried in a furious finish to a middleweight bout. For him, there was a sense of desperation. He seemed to know that he had to score a late knockout if he hoped to be a contender at 160 pounds. Angulo, "El Perro" with a vanishing bite, landed a couple of wicked left hooks and followed with successive rights.

But De La Rosa survived to win a 98-90, 96-92, 99-89 decision over a bloodied Angulo, who lost the first eight rounds, suffered a knockdown in the second, was penalized one point in the seventh for a low blow and – in the end – was pushed closer to retirement.

FIGHT RESULTS

THROUGH FIGHTS OF SEPT. 21, 2014 (CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Gerald Washington UD 8 Nagy Aguilera
Shannon Briggs TKO 1 Cory Phelps
Raphael Zumbano Love KO 2 Ricardo Souza
Denis Boytsov UD 10 Timur Musafarov
Kyotaro Fujimoto TKO 5 Kotatsu Takehara
Luis Ortiz TKO 1 Lateef Kayode

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Marco Huck UD 12 Mirko Larghetti
Murat Gassiev TKO 4 Leon Harth
Thabiso Mchunu UD 10 Garrett Wilson

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Enrico Koelling TKO 8 Giuseppe Brischetto
Egor Mekhontsev TKO 3 Samuel Miller
Erik Skoglund UD 12 Stefano Abatangelo

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Don George UD 12 Dyah Davis
George Tahdooahnippah UD 10 Tracy Sneed
Vincent Feigenbutz TKO 1 Slavisa Simeunovic
Rogelio Medina KO 3 J'Leon Love
Badou Jack UD 10 Jason Escalera
Luke Blackledge UD 10 Philip Kotey
George Groves UD 12 Christopher Rebrasse
Frank Buglioni TKO 6 Alexey Ribchev

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

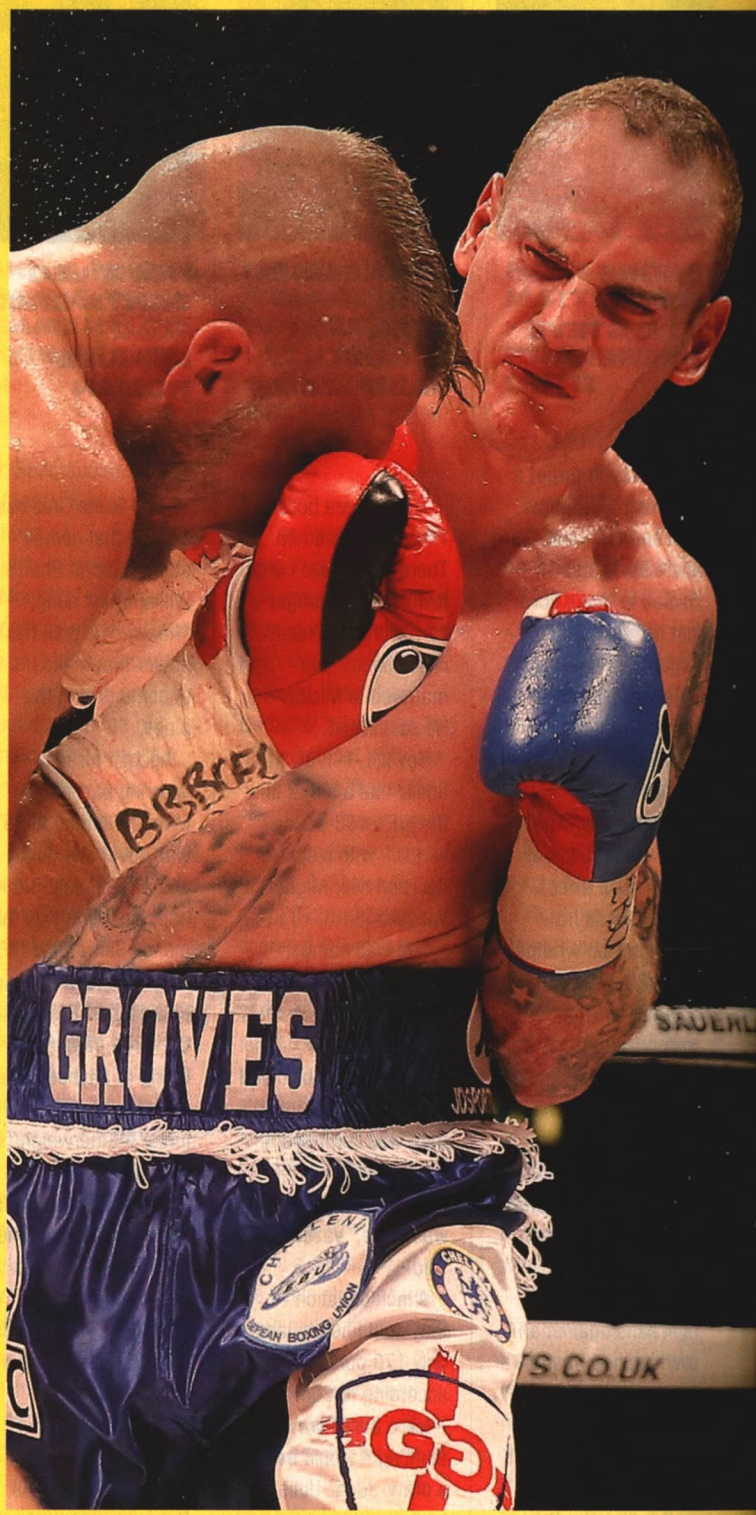
Cristian Fabian Rios TKO 7 Martin Fidel Rios
Ryota Murata UD 10 Adrian Flores
James De La Rosa UD 10 Alfredo Angulo
Adam Etches TKO 3 Samir Santos Barbosa

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Koji Numata TKO 10 Takehiro Shimokawara
Dennis Laurente TKO 2 Elly Pangaribuan
Austin Trout UD 10 Daniel Dawson
Patrick Teixeira UD 10 Mateo Veron
Kris Carslaw UD 12 John Thain
Attila Kovacs MD 10 Dieudonne Belinga

WELTERWEIGHTS

Erick Bone UD 10 Mahonri Montes
Chevelle Hallback TKO 8 Victoria Cisneros
Jamal James TKO 1 Wayne Martell
Antonio DeMarco UD 10 Lanardo Tyner
Jaime Herrera TKO 7 Mike Jones
Teerachai Kratingdaenggym TKO 4 Nelson Gulpe
Ramses Agaton UD 10 Ronald Montes
Andre Berto UD 10 Steve Upsher
Brad Solomon TKO 6 Freddy Hernandez
Cecilia Braekhus UD 10 Ivana Habazin
Sam Eggington TKO 8 Denton Vassell
Floyd Mayweather Jr. UD 12 Marcos Maidana



George Groves got back into the win column with a victory over Christopher Rebrasse.

Shayne Singleton TKO 3 Steve Jevons
Bradley Skeete TKO 2 Leandro Pinto
Konstantin Ponomarev UD 10 Cosme Rivera

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Samuele Esposito UD 12 Christopher Sebire
Lucas Matthysse KO 2 Roberto Ortiz
Adrien Broner UD 12 Emmanuel Taylor
Michael Perez UD 10 Jared Robinson
Marisa Nunez MD 10 Monica Acosta
Klara Svensson UD 10 Marie Riederer
Danny McDermott KO 6 Ronnel Esparas
Humberto Soto UD 10 John Molina
Ali Funeka TKO 8 Boitshepo Mandawe

LIGHTWEIGHTS

DeMarcus Corley KO 2 Dedrick Bell
Ik Yang TKO 8 Sukkasem Kietyongyuth
Victoria Bustos UD 10 Natalia del Valle Aguirre
Robert Manzanarez TKO 3 Ricardo Castillo
Gilberto Gonzalez KO 5 Jeffrey Fontanez
Xolisani Ndongeni TKO 12 Patrick Malinga
Jaider Parra UD 10 Marco Lopez
Juan Diaz UD 10 Carlos Cardenas
Patricio Moreno TKO 12 Marcos Villasana Jr.
Josh King MD 12 Xavier Luques Castillo
Anthony Crolla D 3 Gamaliel Diaz
Scott Cardle TKO 1 Kirk Goodings
Mickey Bey SD 12 Miguel Vazquez
Richar Abril MD 12 Edis Tatli
Fermin De Los Santos UD 12 Jesus Gurrola
DeMarcus Corley UD 10 Daniel Attah

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Jomthong Chuwatana UD 12 Koseki Nakama
Rey Bautista TD 7 Juan Jose Martinez
Miguel Roman TKO 3 Juan Jose Farias
Harmonito Dela Torre KO 4 Isack Junior
Orlando Salido TKO 11 Terdsak Kokietgym
Karl Dargan TKO 5 Angino Perez

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Thong Sithluangphophun KO 3 Yakobus Heluka
Edivaldo Ortega TKO 5 Rey Perez
Sergio Lopez TKO 5 Victor Betancourt
Matias Rueda KO 4 Roberto Iturra
Jesus Cuellar KO 2 Juan Manuel Lopez
Jelena Mrdjenovich TKO 6 Marilyn Hernandez

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Manuel Avila KO 8 Sergio Frias
Marcela Eliana Acuna UD 10 Edith Matthysse
Rey Vargas TKO 2 Daniel Ferreras
Jorge Sanchez TKO 7 Hernan Cortez
Alexis Boureima Kabore UD 12 Silvester Lopez
Genesis Servania TKO 10 Jose Cabrera
Ryosuke Iwasa KO 2 Rommy Wassar
Jackie Nava MD 10 Alicia Ashley
Qiu Xiao Jun KO 1 Ruslan Berchuk
Scott Quigg TKO 3 Stephane Jamoye
Leo Santa Cruz TKO 2 Manuel Roman
TJ Doheny TKO 9 Roman Canto
Kid Galahad UD 12 Adeilson Dos Santos

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Carlos Ruben Dario Ruiz SD 12 Oreste Nieva
Petch Sor Chitpattana KO 8 Jaymart Toyco
Yoan Boyeaux TKO 7 Orlando Maciel
Yonfrez Parejo TKO 11 Luis Hinojosa
Mayerlin Rivas TKO 9 Arely Valente
Ryo Matsumoto KO 2 Denkaosan Kaovichit
Ross Burkinshaw SD 12 Jason Cunningham
Rau'shee Warren UD 10 Jose Luis Araiza
Zhanat Zhakiyanov KO 1 Gagi Edisherashvili
Malcolm Tunacao TD 5 Ryuta Otsuka

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Luis Concepcion TKO 7 Duvan Hernandez
Oleydong Sithsamerchai KO 4 Falazona Fidal
David Sanchez TKO 5 Anuar Salas
Linda Laura Lecca UD 10 Guadalupe Martinez
Arthur Villanueva SD 12 Henry Maldonado
Toshiyuki Igarashi TD 9 Renren Tesorio
Mariana Juarez TKO 4 Carla Romina Weiss
Omar Narvaez MD 12 Felipe Orucuta
Srisaket Sor Rungvisai TD 8 Zoren Pama
Carlos Cuadras D 4 Jose Salgado
Khalid Yafai KO 2 Herald Molina

FLYWEIGHTS

Jessica Chavez UD 10 Melissa McMorrow
Armando Santos D 10 Javier Franco
Makazole Tete TKO 1 Xola Sifama
Roman Gonzalez TKO 9 Akira Yaegashi
Juan Francisco Estrada TKO 11 Giovani Segura
Amnat Ruenroeng SD 12 McWilliams Arroyo
Kazuto Ioka UD 10 Pablo Carrillo
Ryo Miyazaki KO 5 Ichal Tobida

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Tommy Seran KO 3 Jomyuthlek Sor Narongchai
Juan Alejo TKO 11 Jose Guadalupe Martinez
Jesus Faro UD 10 Eliud De los Santos
Randy Petalcorin TKO 7 Walter Tello
Naoya Inoue TKO 11 Samartlek Kokietgym
Paipharob Kokietgym UD 12 Faris Nenggo
Javier Mendoza UD 12 Ramon Garcia Hirales

STRAWWEIGHTS

Carlos Ortega UD 12 Leroy Estrada
Alexis Diaz UD 11 Armando Vazquez
Nao Ikeyama UD 10 Masae Akitaya (atomweight)
Kumiko Seeser Ikehara SD 10 Gretchen Abaniel

COMING UP

PREDICTIONS ARE MADE BY RING STAFF MEMBERS MICHAEL ROSENTHAL, DOUG FISCHER AND LEM SATTERFIELD.

OCT.

OCT. 22 – Shinsuke Yamanaka vs. Suriyan Sor Rungvisai, bantamweights (for Yamanaka's WBC title), Tokyo

OCT. 24 – Carlos Takam vs. Alexander Povetkin, heavyweights, Moscow

OCT. 25 – Martin Murray vs. Domenico Spada, middleweights, Monte Carlo

OCT. 25 – Randy Caballero vs. Stuart Hall, bantamweights (for the vacant IBF title), Monte Carlo

OCT. 25 – Hekkie Budler vs. Xiong Zhao Zhong, strawweights (for Budler's WBA title), Monte Carlo

OCT. 25 – Zolani Tete vs. Paul Butler, junior bantamweights (for Tete's IBF title), Liverpool, England

NOV.

SERGEY KOVALEV VS. BERNARD HOPKINS

Date: Nov. 8
Location: Boardwalk Hall, Atlantic City
Division: Light heavyweight (for Hopkins' WBA and IBF and Kovalev's WBO titles)
TV: HBO
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★
Significance: Hopkins (55-6-2, 32 KOs) has surprised us many times but this might be pushing things: The Alien turns 50 in January and Kovalev (25-0-1, 23 KOs) is a monster. Hopkins evidently believes he can outbox the Russian and avoid big shots. Tough, tough assignment.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Kovalev KO 9; Fischer – Kovalev KO 12; Satterfield – Hopkins MD

WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO VS. KUBRAT PULEV

Date: Nov. 15
Location: O2 World Arena, Hamburg, Germany
Division: Heavyweight (for Klitschko's RING, IBF, WBA and WBO titles)
TV: RTL
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★
Also fighting: Robert Tlatlik vs. Bihes Barakat, junior welterweights
Significance: Pulev (20-0, 11 KOs) is big (6-4 ½), relatively young (33) and generally considered the No. 2 heavyweight in the world. None of that will mean much against Klitschko, who hasn't been in a close fight for a decade. Klitschko is making the 17th defense of his title.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Klitschko KO 9; Fischer – Klitschko UD; Satterfield – Klitschko SD

MANNY PACQUIAO VS. CHRIS ALGIERI

Date: Nov. 22
Location: Macau, China
Division: Welterweight (for Pacquiao's WBO title)
TV: HBO Pay-Per-View
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★
Also fighting: Vasyl

The Bernard Hopkins-Sergey Kovalev fight is about as intriguing as it gets.

Lomachenko vs. Chonlatarn Piriyapinyo, featherweights (for Lomachenko's WBO title); Zou Shiming vs. Kwanpichit OnesongchaiGym, flyweights; Jessie Vargas vs. Antonio DeMarco, junior welterweights
Significance: Pacquiao (56-5-2, 38 KOs) bounced back from his KO loss to Juan Manuel Marquez by easily outpointing Brandon Rios and Tim Bradley. He remains capable at 35. Algieri (20-0, 8 KOs) won the Pacquiao lottery with a stunning upset of Ruslan Provodnikov in June.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Pacquiao UD; Fischer – Pacquiao SD; Satterfield – Pacquiao SD

TYSON FURY VS. DERECK CHISORA II

Date: Nov. 29
Location: ExCel Arena, London
Division: Heavyweights
TV: BoxNation in the U.K.
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★★
Also fighting: Billy Joe Saunders vs. Chris Eubank Jr., middleweights; Frankie Gavin vs. Bradley Skeete, welterweights; Gary Sykes vs. Liam Walsh, junior lightweights
Significance: Fury (22-0, 16 KOs) and Chisora (20-4, 13 KOs) aren't gifted heavyweights but their brash, sometimes crude behavior commands attention and has made this an important fight in the U.K. Fury outpointed an overweight Chisora in their first fight three years ago.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Chisora KO 8; Fischer – Fury MD; Satterfield – Chisora KO 9

TERENCE CRAWFORD VS. RAYMUNDO BELTRAN

Date: Nov. 29
Location: Omaha, Neb.
Division: Lightweights (for Crawford's WBO title)
TV: HBO
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★★
Significance: Crawford (24-0, 17 KOs) announced himself as a rising star in June by stopping Yuriorkis Gamboa in nine rounds in his first title defense. Beltran (29-6-1, 17 KOs) is a tough, blue-collar fighter who can give anyone trouble. He hasn't lost since January 2012.
Prediction: Rosenthal – Crawford UD; Fischer – Crawford UD; Satterfield – Crawford UD

NOV. 1 – Andrzej Fonfara vs. TBA, light heavyweights, Chicago (Showtime)
NOV. 1 – Tomoki Kameda vs. Alejandro Hernandez, bantamweights (for Kameda's WBO title), Chicago (Showtime)
NOV. 6 – Osvaldo Novoa vs. Wanheng Menayothin, strawweights (for Novoa's WBC title), Bangkok, Thailand
NOV. 8 – Takashi Miura vs. Edgar Puerta, junior lightweights (for Miura's WBC title), Tokyo
NOV. 8 – Hugo Ruiz vs. Andres Gutierrez, junior featherweights, Queretaro, Mexico
NOV. 8 – Felix Sturm vs. Robert Stieglitz, super middleweights, Stuttgart, Germany
NOV. 8 – Tomasz Adamek v. Artur Szpilka, heavyweights, Krakow, Poland
NOV. 12 – Anthony Mundine vs. Sergey Rabchenko, junior middleweights, Melbourne, Australia
NOV. 15 – Donnie Nietes vs. Carlos Velarde, junior flyweights (for Nietes' RING and WBO titles), Cebu City, Philippines

DEC.

Canelo Alvarez will face Joshua Clottey on Dec. 6 in Houston on HBO.

DEC. 6 – Canelo Alvarez vs. Joshua Clottey , junior middleweights, Houston, TX (HBO)
DEC. 13 – Tim Bradley vs. Diego Chaves, welterweights, Las Vegas (HBO)

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"Boxers must be part of the equation."
— BOC Member José Chegüi Torres

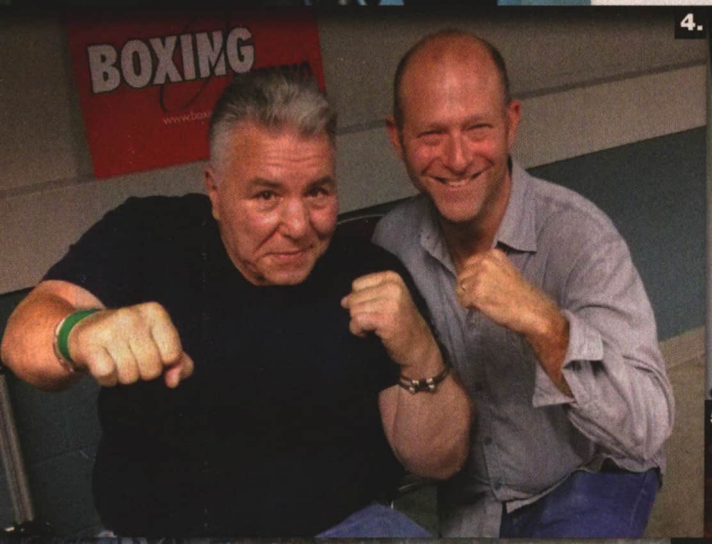
'TERRIBLE TERRY'

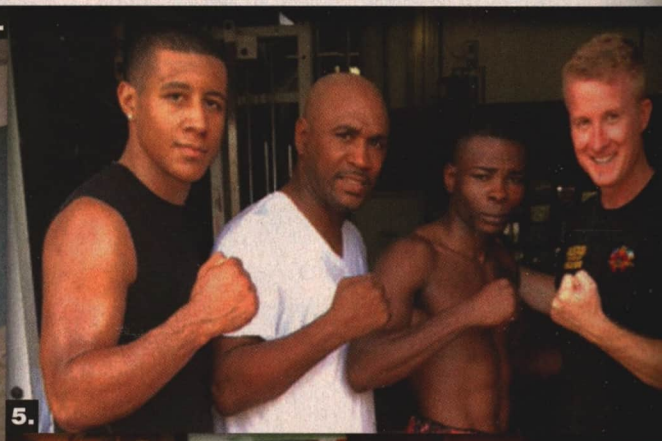
This rare photograph provides a glimpse into training methods of the distant past, circa 1900. That's "Terrible" Terry McGovern about to hurl a medicine ball toward his workout partners in an open field, possibly in his hometown of Brooklyn, New York. McGovern obviously knew how to prepare for a fight, as the little warrior (only 5 feet 3 inches) is recognized as one of the greatest boxers who ever lived and a dynamo in the ring. The late author Bert Sugar wrote

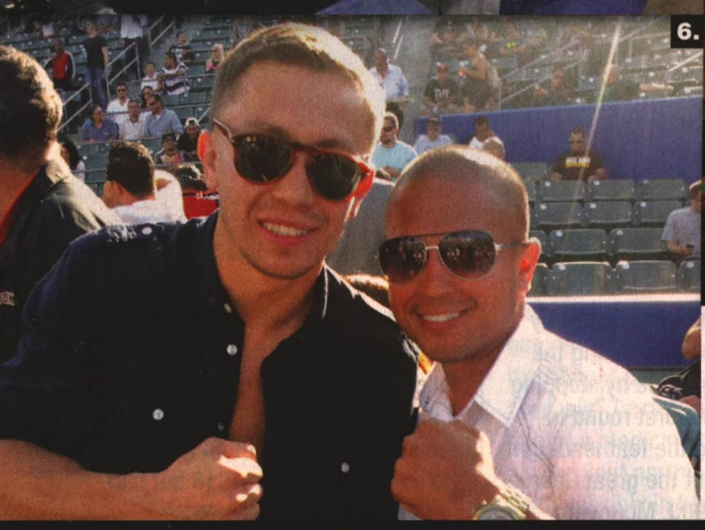
that McGovern had the "fighting technique of a human volcano." Wrote Nat Fleischer, founder of THE RING: "No bantamweight or featherweight ever packed a more dangerous punch than did 'Terrible Terry.'" McGovern turned pro at 17 in 1897 yet became an elite fighter by the turn of the century, winning the world bantamweight title by stopping Pedlar Palmer in the first round in 1899 and capturing the featherweight belt by knocking out the great George Dixon in eight in 1900. McGovern made five successful defenses of his featherweight title before losing it to fellow Hall of Famer Young Corbett II in 1901. He retired in 1908 with a record of 59-5-4, with 44 knockouts. He died at only 37 in 1918 but had left an indelible mark.

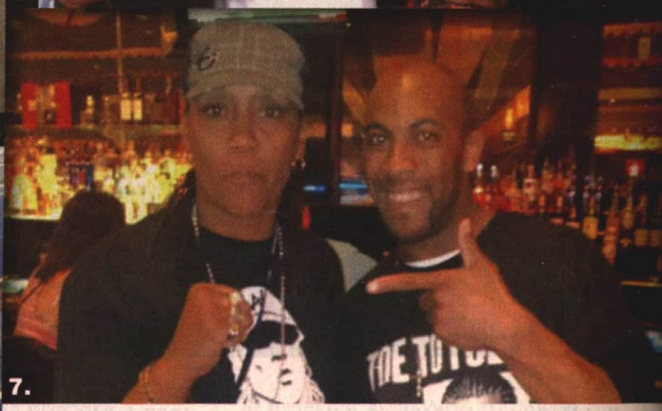
AT THE FIGHTS

1. Robert Uzzell (left) with Floyd Mayweather Jr. a few days before Mayweather fought Marcos Maidana in May at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. **2.** Jamie Richard (left) with Micky Ward at a recent Golden Gloves tournament in Lowell, Mass. **3.** Chache Perez (right) with Golden Boy Promotions matchmaker Eric Gomez during Mayweather-Maidana II fight week in Las Vegas. **4.** Derek Sherman (right) with former heavyweight contender George Chuvalo at a fight card in September near Toronto. **5.** Paul Murray (right) with (from left) amateur R.J. Munoz and Cuban stars Joel Casamayor and Guillermo Rigondeaux. **6.** Rolando Valdovinos (right) with Gennady Golovkin at the Vasyl Lomachenko-Gary Russell Jr. card in June in Carson, Calif.. **7.** Marlon Gaskin (right) with Ann Wolfe at the Canelo Alvarez-Alfredo Angulo fight in March in Las Vegas.









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